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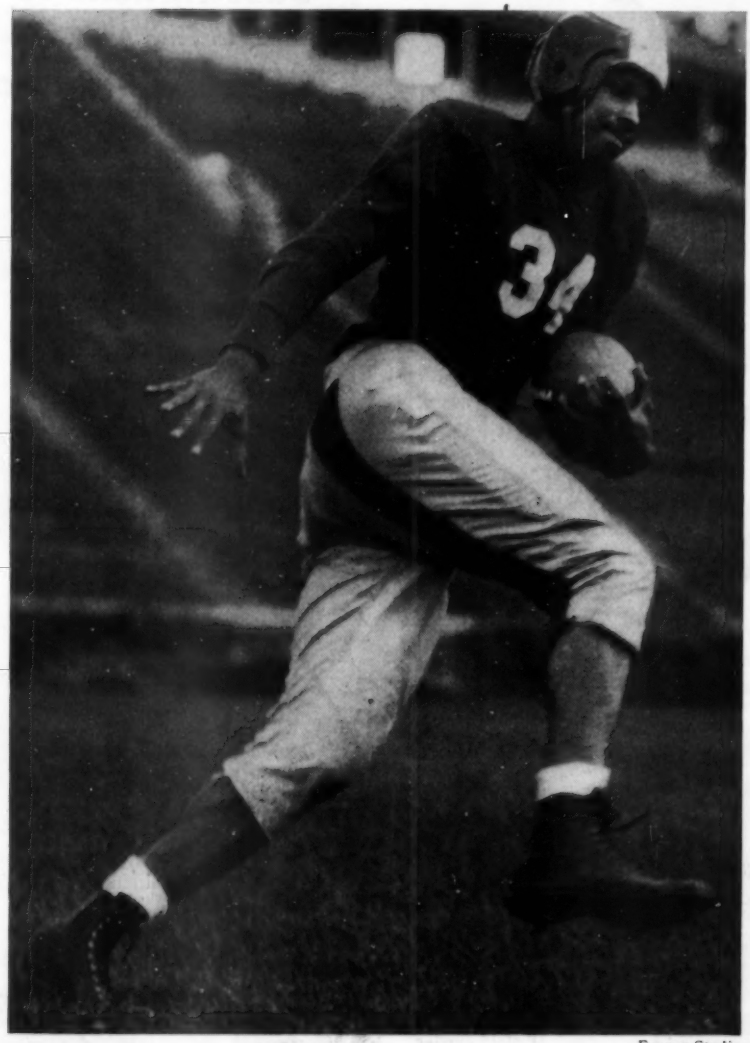

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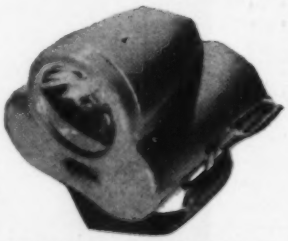

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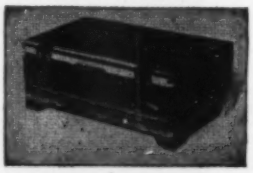

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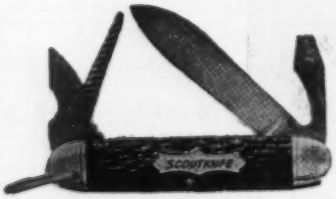

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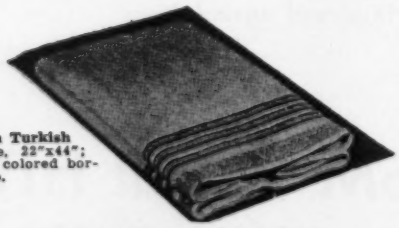

3718 — Cannon Turkish Towel (One, 22"x44"; white with colored border) **1 sub.**

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College and School News

Southern University has recently occupied its $150,000 library building and its $50,000 infirmary. Southern now boasts the largest National Defense Training Center in Louisiana regardless of race.

New faculty members are: J. Warren Lee (Natural Science) Ph.D., Iowa University; Jean Hamilton Walls (English) Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh; E. S. Richards (Sociology) Ph.D., University of Southern California; F. F. Brown (Health Education) M.D., Meharry Medical College and M.P.H., Harvard University; Wm. L. Campfield (Business) M.B.A., University of Minnesota, C.P.A.; and Margaret V. Nelson (Education) A.M., Columbia, Phi Beta Kappa.

At **Tougaloo College** the first semester enrollment for the scholastic year 1941–42 totals 158; 63 men and 95 women. Six states are represented in the student body.

Miss Lulu M. Johnson, instructor in history and government returned after spending a successful school year and summer at the University of Iowa. She received the Ph.D. degree, the first Negro woman to receive this degree from any Iowa educational institution.

The Annual Conference of Advisors to Youth in Schools of North Carolina was held at **Bennett College** on Nov. 1.

An $8,500 organ has been installed in the new Pfeiffer Memorial chapel. It was dedicated in a recital by Orrin Suthern on Nov. 1. Sound apparatus and individual hearing devices for the convenience of the hard of hearing have been installed in the chapel. An illuminated electric clock, visible from most all points of the campus, has been installed in the chapel tower.

A total of 17 new persons joined the faculty and administrative staff at Bennett College this fall. These persons are:

Mrs. M. B. Dennis, graduate of the Vancouver Art School, instructor of Art; Mrs. Naomi Jeter, who holds the M.Ed. degree from Pennsylvania, specialist in clothing; Miss Barbara Ware, M.A., Temple University, instructor of Home Economics; Albert N. Whiting, M.A., Fisk University, instructor of

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Social Sciences; R. Vincent Grigsby, a graduate of Hampton, teacher of home crafts; and Miss Ellen Torrence, June graduate from the University of Oregon, teacher of Physical Education.

The new dean of students is Miss Virginia Lee Simmons, M.A., University of Wisconsin, and the publicity director is Miss Lois Taylor, M.A., Columbia University. Mrs. Addie Hairston is dietitian, and Miss Izora Woodson will supervise the health of students and faculty.

The four Bennett graduates now employed on the campus include: Miss Edwia Graham, assistant in music, Miss Nettie Nash, nurseryschool aide, Miss Pauline Spruill, assistant in the dining-hall, and Miss DuDonna Tate, who has joined the staff of the business office.

Other additions to the Bennett staff are: Mrs. A. N. Whiting, secretarial worker, and Mrs. C. N. Ford, who is in charge of the College Bookstore. Miss Hilda Smith, formerly secretary to the President of Miles Memorial College in Birmingham, Ala., is now secretary to Dean Simmons.

The eighth unit under the Civilian Aeronautics Administration at the **West Virginia State College** has been organized and both ground and flight instructions begun.

For the purpose of assisting freshmen to orient themselves to campus customs, **Spelman College** has issued a new handbook recording Spelman traditions and customs. It was prepared in the main by two seniors, Mary Vincent of Albany, Ga., and Elizabeth Lipford of Cleveland, O., and a junior, Juanita Samuels of Atlanta, Ga.

Shaw University announces the following new faculty appointments: Miss Essie B. Hendricks of Cleveland, O., as instructor in home economics, and Miss Juanita Banks of Alderson, West Va., as university nurse. Miss Hendricks is a B.S. and M.A., Western Reserve University, while Miss Banks is a graduate of Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D. C. Miss Hendricks has taught at Fort Valley School, Winston-Salem Teachers College and Virginia State College. Miss Banks has worked since her graduation at the Denmar Sanatorium, Denmar, W. V.

Elmer W. Henderson, instructor in social anthropology at **Dillard University** has been appointed field representative of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices. Succeeding him is J. G. St. Clair Drake, former member of the Dillard faculty and more recently a research assistant at the University of Chicago.

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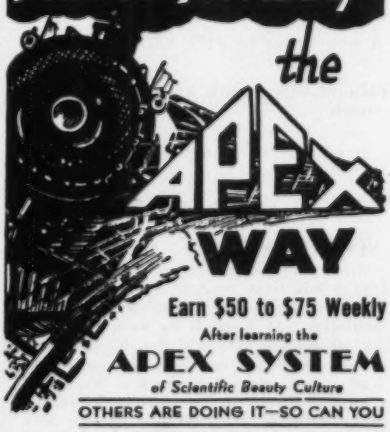

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Conference) and the sixth Annual Farm and Home Week will be held at **Tuskegee Institute**, December 3–10. Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard will be the principal speaker.

Tuskegee has recently conducted a post-graduate course for the care of victims of infantile paralysis. Nurses from Tuskegee and Atlanta hospitals attended the course taught by Miss Mary MacDonald, Orthopedic Consultant of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

Students from 40 different colleges and universities have been enrolled in the graduate division of arts and sciences at **Atlanta University** this year.

Benjamin F. Bullock, superintendent of grounds at Atlanta University, has won a first prize of $50 in the Annual Yard and Garden Contest sponsored by the Atlanta *Constitution*. He was notified recently that Atlanta University had also won second place in Class IV of the Atlanta *Constitution's* Yard and Garden Contest for maintaining an attractive and well-kept campus.

A total of 1480 students is the enrollment in the Atlanta University System.

The President of **Cheyney State Teachers College**, Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, was recently honored when his poem "The Teacher" was set to music for the National Children's Work Board of the Religious Education Council of Canada for use on a promotion program. The music was written by one of Canada's widely known song writers, Mrs. Claire Senior Burke.

H. J. Mason, **Wiley College** endowment secretary, has been elected assistant secretary of the Texas Negro Chamber of Commerce.

The Wiley athletic park has been rebuilt.

Mr. Mason was also recently elected executive secretary of the Texas Conference Board of Education.

Harold T. Pinkett, A.M., Univ. of Penna., professor of history and political science at **Livingstone College** recently contributed a significant article "The Influence of John Locke on the American Revolution" to the Quarterly Journal of Florida A. & M. College.

Eight new instructors have been added to the staff of **Howard University** College of Liberal Arts. These teachers are:

Fred W. Alsup, instructor in Zoology in place of Dr. Hyman Chase, A.B., A.M., Fisk University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania.

Herman Branson, assistant professor of Physics and Chemistry, S.B., Virginia State College; Ph.D., University of Cincinnati.

Jesse B. Chase, temporary instructor in Physical Education for Men and assistant coach of athletics, S.B. in education, S.M. in education, Boston University.

John H. Herg, professorial lecturer in Political Science, Doctor of Law, University of Cologne.

Myron T. Higgins, temporary instructor in English, A.B., A.M., Howard University.

James H. Rowland, part-time instructor in Physical Education for Men and acting coach of football, S.B., A.M. in Education, Ohio State University.

Marian G. Wyatt, instructor in Home Economics, S.B., Virginia State College; S.B., Cornell University; A.M., Columbia University.

G. Franklin Edwards, teaching assistant in Sociology, A.B. Fisk University; graduate work at the University of Chicago.

Howard University placed among the first 10 in the nation-wide "Next Decade in American Foreign Policy" essay contest of the Institute for National Policy, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. Three student committees from 144 American colleges submitted essays. Howard was sixth.

Dr. Ernest Everett Just, internationally famous scientist and head of the Department of Zoology for 26 years, recently passed away. He was one of the first Spingarn Medallists.

Dr. Sterling M. Lloyd of Phoebus, Va., has been appointed school physician at **Hampton Institute**. Mrs. Ednora M. Cooper of the division of home economics has been appointed to the State of Virginia Nutrition Committee.

W. T. Courtney, chief engineer at Howard University, has become head of the plumbing and heating department at Hampton; Joseph W. Gaillard is now art instructor for sculpture and ceramics, and Mrs. Marion P. Capps has become part-time instructor in mathematics. Mr. Courtney will be in charge of the central heating plant in addition to teaching students the trade of heating and plumbing. He graduated from Hampton in 1904, and in addition to private contracting has taught at several Negro institutions.

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Volume 48, No. 12 *Whole No. 372*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879, and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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NEXT MONTH

The January issue will be a special number devoted to the city of Jacksonville, Fla. There will be pictures and articles on all phases of Jacksonville life, with emphasis on businesses.

The February number will be a pictorial story of the first year of Army life for the thousands of Negro citizen-soldiers.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Pearl S. Buck is the famous novelist, author of *The Good Earth*, and other works. She has long been a firm believer in justice in race relations.

William A. McClain is an attorney in Cincinnati and president of his city's branch of the NAACP.

George S. Schuyler is well known as a columnist for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, magazine writer, and book reviewer. He is also business manager of THE CRISIS.

George C. Morse, a new writer to THE CRISIS, lives in Orange, N. J.

Harold Preece concludes this month his series of three articles on the New South.

THE COVER

Sam R. Pierce, playing his first year of varsity football at Cornell, hails from Glen Cove, N. Y., where he was a star in high school athletics. At Cornell he is a top man in his studies, having made the Dean's list in his first year. Pierce is speedy on the field, but can also pass and kick. Navy, which had never played against a Negro in athletics in 96 years, raised insistent, but quiet objections to Pierce, tried to make Cornell promise not to use him in the Navy game at Baltimore. Coach Carl Snavely of Cornell answered that Pierce would be used "any damn time I get ready for him." As a result, Pierce became the first Negro athlete to play against Navy, as Snavely used him in the third and fourth quarters. Also as a result, no battleships keeled over and the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., is still standing.

Pierce is 18, weighs 185, and is 6 feet, 1 inch tall. He scored two of the three touchdowns against Colgate and is expected to hit his stride next season.

Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allen Neilson, Walter White, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

Crime Smear

LED by The New York *Times*, the daily press of New York has manufactured a "crime wave" in Harlem, and by persistent distortion and misrepresentation has branded the 200,000 residents of that section as criminals. There has been general astonishment and dismay over the action of *The Times*, which rated this Harlem news on a level with the news from Russia, Libya, Japan, and the office of John L. Lewis.

The facts are that a white lad was stabbed to death, allegedly by three Negro boys ranging in age from 12 to 16; a white man was found strangled to death in a park, and for that crime three Negroes have been arrested. To these two major crimes, *The Times* and the rest of the press have added all the routine police blotter items which can be found in any police station any week of the year.

The headlines stimulated much heat and little light on the conditions in Harlem out of which crime may be expected to spring. The greatest dividend was the letter of Pearl S. Buck, noted novelist, which *The Times* carried November 15, and which is reprinted in this issue on page 376.

It ought to be emphasized that the people of Harlem, under the lash of the press, are in no mood for cooperative effort toward a solution of the basic problems. They are angry and they have a right to be. For it is apparent that the newspapers have not concerned themselves with the thousands of law-abiding Harlem citizens who hate crime, who want protection, and who want to do something about present conditions. The newspapers have become excited only because *whites* have been molested in the Harlem area by *blacks*. Thus, it appears that they are not interested in stamping out crime as such, but only crimes of Negroes against whites.

The people of Harlem, the respectable, hard-working, everyday citizens, want something done about discrimination in employment so that a father can support a family and rear children to be good citizens instead of hoodlums. They want something done about the miserable slum areas within Harlem and the strangling ghetto plan.

They want something done about schools, recreation, and health. For years they have been trying to get cooperation in attacking these problems, but only in recent years, under Mayor LaGuardia, has any progress been made through the Board of Education and the Department of Parks.

It is not true, as has been asserted, that Harlem citizens have not tried to do anything about these problems. They have been yelling to high heaven, but only in the wake of some spectacular occurrence, such as the 1935 riots and the murder of a white youth in November, have they received the slightest hearing.

Topping the list of requirements is employment at decent wages. No stable community can be built and maintained by people who are either shut out of work or employed at sub-standard wages. There is no hope in such a community, only struggle, heartbreak, and despair.

And violence and crime.

South in the Saddle, Riding Labor

ORGANIZED labor seems headed for some resounding whacks in the form of restrictive legislation sponsored in the Congress by representatives from southern states. These congressmen came to their present prominence and power because of the poll tax, the Democratic "white primary," education tests, and other obstacles to free voting in the South.

For years the Negroes of this country have been telling the nation about these undemocratic practices.

Yet labor has been deaf to pleas for assistance in breaking down the barriers to the ballot box in the South. Labor, apparently, has been sold the idea that these barriers are necessary to maintain white supremacy. So labor was content to let the Negroes fight the battle against lynching, terror, and disfranchisement.

As a dividend, labor got Martin Dies of Texas. Also Eugene Cox of the second district of Georgia. Cox is now acting chairman of the all-powerful Rules committee of the House. He is in a position to say, as he said in mid-November, that no legislation would be permitted on the House floor until an anti-labor, anti-strike bill was enacted into law.

Labor would do well to take a look at Congressman Cox. In his district there were 263,606 people in 1930. In the 1938 off-year elections only 5,137 votes were cast and all these went to Cox. In the 1940 Presidential election year 22,882 votes were cast and these went to Cox. Not a single Republican or other party vote is recorded.

Compare Cox's district with the second district of Indiana which in 1930 had a population of 260,287. In the 1938 off-year election a total (in round numbers) of 136,000 votes was cast. In the 1940 election, a total of 150,942 votes was cast.

More than *26 times* as many persons voted in 1938 in the Indiana district as voted in the Georgia district. In 1940, nearly *7 times* as many voted. The people, black and white, who cannot vote in Georgia—and elsewhere in the South—are the answer to labor's problem.

As long as organized labor chooses to play with lily-whiteism instead of democratic action it will have to bear the burden of Cox, Dies, Smith, Connally, *et al.* Any time labor wants to get rid of the system which brings forth these gentlemen, it might effect a genuine alliance with Negro Americans who have about 2,000,000 strategic votes in northern states.

Talmadge. We hope nothing happens to Governor Gene Talmadge, of Georgia. He is the finest living reason why Negroes should not feel inferior to white people.

Rape. Hidden away in The New York *Times* at the bottom of a long column of news from Iceland were three or four lines stating that four white American soldiers had been convicted and sentenced to prison for raping an Icelandic woman. But no generals, in writing their memoirs of this war twenty years hence, will smear these troops by calling them rapists. Such slander is reserved for black American soldiers.

Waste. Everyone should know by now that Negroes are incapable of administering anything except a broom and a mop, and so the engineers and "experts" who tossed away a mere 100 million dollars in "mistakes" in building our Army camps must have been black. The men who estimated it would take 20 million dollars to build a plant at Milan, Tennessee, must have been Negroes, also, for it now turns out that the plant is costing 51 million.

Navy. Secretary Knox says the Navy may have to take draftees because voluntary enlistments have dropped fifteen per cent. A. Hitler and H. Tojo may force the Navy to take chimpanzees, but you can bet it won't take American Negro citizens. No siree!

Democracy and the Negro

By Pearl S. Buck

In a letter to The New York Times dated November 14 and printed November 15, Miss Buck, one of the foremost writers of our day, has caught and expressed so completely the problem of the Negro and democracy in America that for the benefit of its readers who may not have seen The Times of November 15, The Crisis reprints the letter here in full. Miss Buck's letter was inspired by the report of a "crime wave" in Harlem, a circumstance largely created in the editorial rooms of some New York daily newspapers

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Your editorial of Nov. 12, "The Other Side of Harlem," denies the basic cause for the situation in our country of which the new manifestation of crime in Harlem is only a symptom slight enough for what it signifies. Nor are the constructive measures proposed sufficient. It would be impossible for any accumulation of social welfare work to solve the situation which produces crime in Harlem. We all know that merely to make arrests and impose jail sentences can be nothing but an emergency measure and one which promises no fundamental improvement for the future. But equally palliative are the efforts of welfare workers on the basis upon which they are now organized.

The reason why colored Americans are compelled to live in ghettos, where they are helpless against high rents and miserable housing, is the segregation to which race prejudice compels them. Race prejudice compels colored people to take what work they can get because there are so many jobs Negroes cannot get. Race prejudice makes and keeps Negroes' wages low because some labor unions will not admit colored labor on the same basis as white labor. Race prejudice and race prejudice alone is the root of the plight of people in greater and lesser Harlems all over our country.

Hope Becoming Despair

As a result of the effects of race prejudice a very serious conviction is gradually becoming settled in the minds of colored Americans all over our country. They are coming to see that what they have been taught and have believed is not true—namely, that if colored people can be patient and good and show themselves obedient and humble they will inevitably prove themselves worthy citizens and will therefore receive the rewards of full citizenship. They are beginning to believe, and this in very large numbers, that individual or even collective worth as human beings gains them nothing so long as they are Negroes. The hopefulness natural to their race is now changing to despair. Colored leaders are saying today that no amount of achievement will gain anything for the colored people as a whole, and that, moreover, they no longer believe the people of the United States will fight for democracy. Americans may fight to live and do as they like, they say, but not for democracy.

This conviction of some colored leaders and many more colored people is rapidly permeating the whole twelve millions. When hope is taken away from a people moral degeneration follows swiftly after. Young colored men and women today are giving up hope of justice or security in their own country. When this hopelessness reaches down to certain strata in any society, outbreaks of crime are inevitable. We must expect it in many places besides Harlem. It has already occurred in other cities.

The swiftness with which this long-gathering despair has come to a present head is due, perhaps, more than to any other immediate cause, to the refusal of the majority of defense industries to employ colored labor on anything like an equal basis with white labor. To the colored American this is final proof of the hopelessness of his plight, that even in the defense of his country he is not allowed his share of work.

Segregation Curbs Patriotism

And yet it may be a mistake to say that this denial of the chance at jobs is more to blame than the resolute segregation in the Army or the practical limitation in the Navy. The colored American, thanks to an education in democracy, now really wants to see his country a democracy. When he defends the United States of America he does not want to do so segregated and limited. This contradicts his idea of a democracy. He has grown up a good deal since the World War. And he has not forgotten that war. He is willing to fight and die again, but not for something he does not possess anyway.

The white American is conscious of this feeling now seething and mounting in the hearts of his colored countrymen. But the white American sedulously avoids acknowledging or indeed even facing it. With the same curious blindness which none of us could understand in France, we white Americans avoid the reality in our own country. We do not want to discover the real truth about the colored American, which is that our prejudice denies him democracy. We refuse to face it because we do not want to change the status of the colored person. We wish to keep him the servant of the white man.

Hypocrisy Seen

I am, I think, realistic and objective on this matter of race, having lived most of my life among colored peoples. My own ancestry is entirely Southern, and I am very familiar with the problems of white and colored in the South. I do not, however, believe their solution is to be found in what the average white Southerner says, in the familiar patter, that the Negro is a childish creature, delightful enough in his place, who only wants to be taken care of and fed and sheltered and treated kindly. That the Negro in the South often glibly falls in with such assertions means nothing; that Negro is afraid of his white master and says what the white man wants him to say. The same Negro quickly expresses himself in totally different terms as soon as he changes his locale and is relieved of his fear.

But be that as it may, the real point is that our democracy does not allow for the present division between a white ruler race and a subject colored race, and we ought to make up our minds as to what we want and then move to accomplish it. If the United States is to include subject and ruler peoples, then let us be honest about it and change the Constitution and make it plain that Negroes cannot share the privileges of the white people. True, we would then be totalitarian rather than democratic; but if that is what we want, let us say so and let us tell the Negro so. Then the white Americans will be relieved of the necessity of hypocrisy and the colored people will know where they are. They may even settle down into a docile subject race, so long as we are able to keep the

weapons of rebellion from them—and these include education.

As an American I should deplore any such thing, and yet the world needs this sort of clarification. Democracy now suffers from vagueness because of the lack of relation between principle and action. With all the evils that Hitlerism has, at least it has one virtue, that it makes no pretense of loving its fellowman and of wanting all people to be free and equal. Everybody knows where nazism stands and what to expect of it. Cruel as it is, and dangerous as it is to civilization, it is less cruel, and it may be even less dangerous in the end, than the sort of democracy which is not real enough or strong enough to practice what it preaches. To destroy hope utterly is kinder than to allow it without intending to let it be fulfilled.

Patience Waning

The importance of facing the situation between white and colored people in our own country is twofold—it is upon this rock that our own ship of democracy may go down first, and upon this rock, too, that all peoples may divide into the ultimate enmity. Everywhere in the world the colored peoples are asking each other if they must forever endure the arrogant ruling white race. They feel they have been very long patient, but they cannot be patient forever and they will not. In India such men as Nehru, now again in jail at the hands of white men fighting for democracy in Europe; in our own county colored Americans, as intelligent, and well educated as Nehru, barred by their color alone from an equal chance with white Americans to earn their living or to defend democracy—there is a deep, subtle, dangerous relationship between them. We are foolish if we do not realize it.

For in many educated colored Americans hopelessness results not in simple crime but in a rejection of patriotism. There are those, and some of them leaders, who favor Japan in the present crisis, seeing in Japan the future leader of all colored peoples in the world. There are those who prefer Hitler to British imperialism, feeling that if English rule over colored races can be destroyed, then Hitler can be dealt with afterward as the less established evil. At home and abroad the white race has the choice to make—whether it will follow the totalitarian principle of ruler and subject races, even to the inevitable end of rebellion and the worst of wars, or whether peoples of all colors will decide to work out ways of living in mutual harmony and freedom.

Crisis Near at Hand

Such is the situation between colored and white peoples at this moment. It is idle to say that the crisis is two steps off and let us attend first to defense and the present war. Crisis between white and colored is not two steps off—it is close, inextricably mingled with this war, because the war against nazism carries race equality or inequality as one of its main issues. It does no good that we ourselves keep the issue hushed and hidden and apart from the thinking of the mass of the white people. The crisis approaches, whether white people are willing to know it or not. It approaches in the world, and with that inexorable march our own people are keeping step.

What then should we do if we are honest believers in the democratic way of life? We must move swiftly and at once, and our President should not fear so to move, to do away with the effects of race prejudice upon colored Americans. Race prejudice cannot be taken out of people unfortunately by surgical operation, although it is an evil and foreign growth. Children do not have it until they catch it from older people. I have frequent proof of this, the most recent being through the 12-year-old son of an American friend newly returned from China.

This white child goes to public school in a New Jersey town. When a class picnic was to be held it was found that the place chosen excluded colored people. To his deep indignation the boy found that his teachers, instead of changing the place, accepted the exclusion and managed by "tactful ways" to see that no colored children came to the picnic. The white boy was shocked to the soul at this injustice in his own land to which he had long looked with love and pride while he was growing up in China. His hurt was personal, too, because his own best friend happened to be a fine colored boy. "I won't go if Henry can't go," was his right decision.

Adolescents Little Prejudiced

Nor do adolescents have race prejudice in anything like the degree that older people have. Recently in Texas there were a championship white football team and a championship colored team at high schools in the same city. Of course their managers and coaches would not schedule them to play each other. But the white team went out one morning by secret arrangement and played the colored team. They said to their coach when they returned: "We just wanted to see which of us was better." As it happened, it was a tie game, and though there is symbolism enough in that ideal ending, the significance of the incident, and of plenty of others like it, is that the boys, colored and white, had no prejudice against each other.

Intelligent white people seldom suffer from race prejudice so severely as ignorant ones, and there are many who would, if they dared, acknowledge that they have none whatever. But too few dare. For wherever the disease of race prejudice is found it is bitter and incurable and dies only with death.

But if nothing can remove race prejudice from those in whom it is ingrained, they should not be allowed to violate our nation's democracy. At least, our government can and should see to it that all Americans shall have equal economic opportunity and that colored people in this democracy shall not suffer insult because of their color. It can and should insist that colored citizens shall share responsibility with white citizens for the welfare of the nation, and thus remove the chief reason for the half-tolerant, wholly patronizing contempt of the white for the colored and thereby build in the colored citizen belief in himself. Democratic government must keep apace of science and realize that there is no basis beyond prejudice for the belief that one race is intrinsically superior to another. Continued injustice may make any one inferior, temporarily, regardless of his color.

I read with complete approval of every plan to better the conditions under which colored people must live and work. But until race prejudice is conquered and its effects removed, the bitter fact remains that the colored American knows he will not get a better job for being better educated and better housed or for having in his childhood more playgrounds. He will not be given an equal chance with the white American of his class and ability. Race prejudice will still deny democracy to him.

Are we Americans to go on accepting the stupidities of race prejudice? I know the oft-repeated wearisome defense. Intermarriage is the fearful specter behind everything. On that there is but one answer. Are we to deny to 12,000,000 Americans the rights and privileges of our country, and are we to risk our very democracy itself, by maintaining a determined ruler-subject relationship between white and colored, because some day a few white and colored individuals may choose to marry each other?

Is democracy right or is it wrong? If it is right, then let us dare to make it true.

PEARL S. BUCK.

Perkasie, Pa., Nov. 14, 1941.

GIVE BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

See page 396

Harlem Slums

This report on a few of the fire-trap, rat-infested tenements of Harlem was made by an energetic NAACP Youth Council committee. The revelations are no credit to either the landlords or the City of New York

THE housing committee of the New York N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council No. 1, conducted last spring and summer an extensive housing survey in the locality of 133rd street from Seventh avenue east. This vicinity was chosen, through the advice of the Consolidated Tenants' League, because of its most deplorable conditions. The purpose of the survey is to bring pressure, by concrete facts, figures, and photographs, upon the authorities of housing in this city to have them begin erection, in the very near future, of another low-cost project house in this area.

The state of most of the apartments into which the members have gone is so bad that it is incredible in this modern age. It has been found that most of the tenants are paying one-half to three-quarters of their income in rent. In many cases, they are paying all of their income in rent. In a few cases, some of the tenants are paying more rent than their total income, depending upon roomers to correct this. In other cases, because of their small income, there are as many as seven people, of which four are children, in a dimly-lighted, poorly ventilated, two-room apartment, one room being a kitchen.

These tenants must pay exorbitant rents to avaricious and heartless landlords, who refuse to make necessary repairs in these old-law, fire-trap, vermin-infested, dilapidated tenements, which appear as though they will cave in any minute. Many times these poor tenants are threatened with eviction because of non-payment of rent on the landlord's first call. Some of the tenants are forced to make their own repairs for safety and comfort. The plumbing is so bad in most apartments that leaks are very common from the corroded pipes. The plaster on the walls is broken off, leaving huge holes. Very often, bathtubs are in kitchens and even in bedrooms, without any partitions surrounding them. They are usually very small, some just about four feet in length. The water pressure is very bad in many cases, due to the lamentable condition of the pipes, which remain unrepaired.

Some of the tenants have to buy their own window shades and iceboxes.

Violate All Regulations

Very many of these houses are cold flats, which lack proper facilities and supplies for heat in the winter time, which leave some of them without heat at all. Many have bathroom and kitchen facilities next to each other in a none-too commodious room.

Although all of the houses have electric lighting, the old gas fixtures have not been removed from many apartments; defective and exposed wires are not unusual. Many tenants complain of sparks and flashes upon putting on their lights.

In some of the houses, there are absolutely no bells. In many there is only one set of bells. Quite often, the bells are not working and have been in this condition for months, which is a violation of Fire Department regulations.

Garbage disposal is by way of collection or throwing down into the backyards and, in some cases, into the dumbwaiters, which are usually broken. This phase of housing violates the Health, Sanitation, Fire and Tenement Departments regulations at the same time.

In some apartments, there is very poor ventilation, windows being in airshafts and very narrow and small.

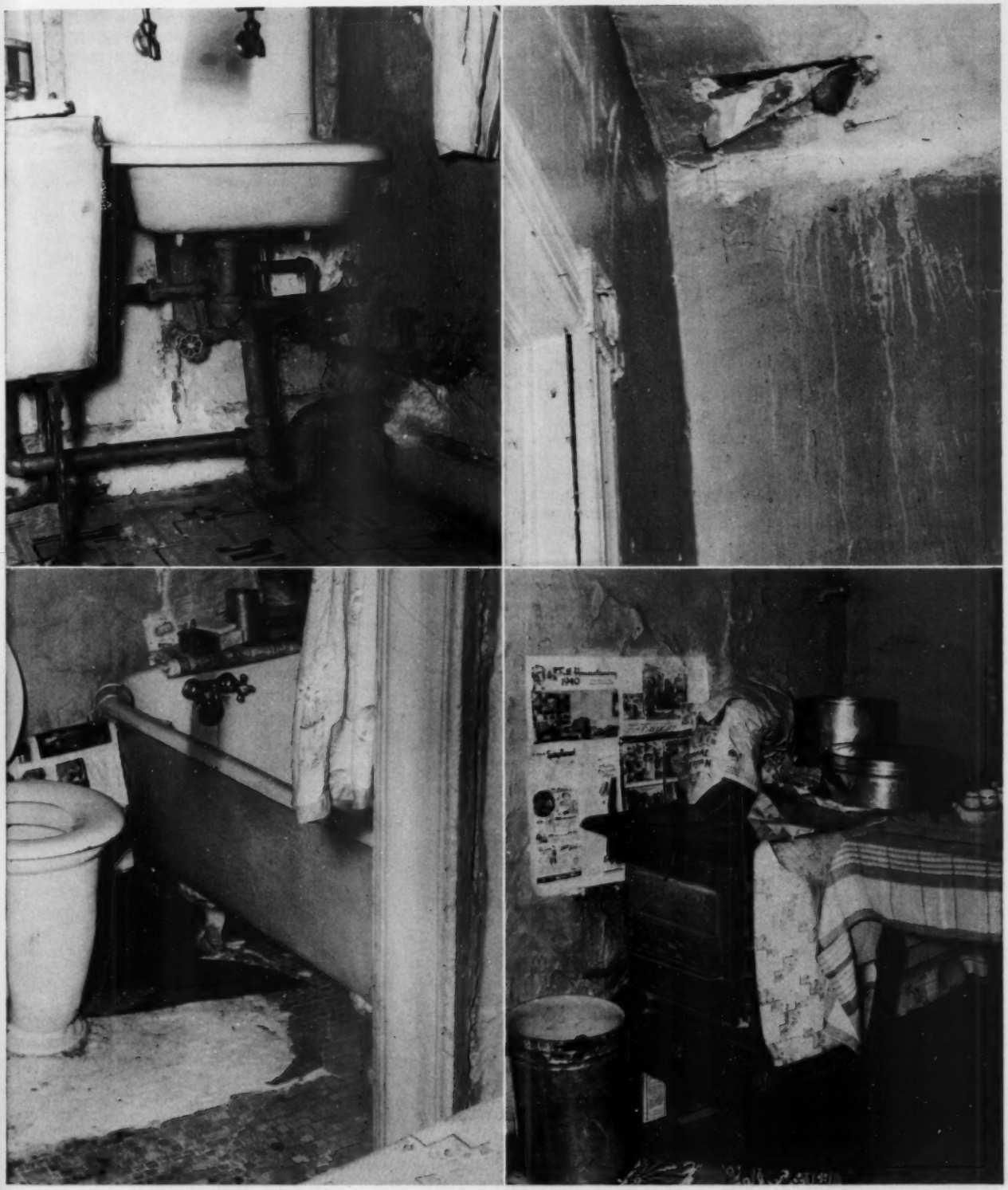
Floors are cracked and uneven, those that are not crudely plain are painted. Parquet floors are a rare sight.

"Rats as Big as Cats"

"Rats as long as cats that scare the babies and cats away" is an exclamation which is commonly heard in this neighborhood. Because of the age and de-

Right, Miss Enid Jervis, president of the NAACP youth council. Below, members of the housing committee, left to right, sitting: Arthur Thompson, chairman, and Enid Jervis. Standing, Ruby Gillespie, Albert Gaines, Elvira Johnathan, Frank Facey, and Gustave Simmonds

M. Smith Photos



Harlem Slum Tenements: *Upper left view shows where tenant in 133rd street plastered up holes under sink because landlord refused to act and rats were coming through; upper right, hole in a ceiling; lower left, tenant in 133rd street had to plaster floor in bathroom for comfort and safety; lower right, hole in kitchen wall in 133rd street covered with paper by tenant*

caying state of these houses, the rats, bugs, roaches, and all sorts of vermin are in the walls and thus come into the apartments. Even though the exterminator comes around to many of these houses, the tenants have much trouble with these vermin. Big water bugs that fly come into many of the apartments from the backyards where the garbage is piled so high it nearly touches the window sills of tenants on the first floor.

The buildings are dimly-lighted, with wooden stairs, dirty, cracked walls with holes, wooden floors; some of them have all these violations. They are filthy from without and within. There are quite a number of apartment houses in this area which are all boarded up, because they have been condemned by the Tenement Department and the Board of Health.

Some of the conditions are so miserable that the members of the N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council housing committee, of which Arthur Thompson is chairman, felt that only through photographs could the almost incredible facts be understood. Therefore, they engaged the Camera Club of the Y.M.C.A., which has been most cooperative and helpful. Thus, they are able to show the pictures accompanying this article as some of the many taken on their survey.

Other members of the committee are: Misses Marion Bell, Ruby Gillespie, Essie Coombs, Elvira Johnathan; Messrs. Gustave Simmonds, Frank Facey, Benjamin Thompson, Albert Gaines, Clayton Brown, and Robert Weathers.

Exhibit A

In 144 West 133rd Street, No. 6, which is a three-room cold-flat apartment renting at $20 a month, we found the condition throughout unspeakable; thus we had to resort to photographs to tell the story, which is almost incredible.

At the time of the survey most of the pipes were broken; the plumbing in the kitchen and bathroom was so bad that leaks were common. The toilet box was in a bad state. The toilet seat was broken. There was defective drainage.

One of the two occupants, the mother, who is elderly, told us that whenever she pulled the light (electric) in her room, a big flash occurred; this was due to exposed and defective wiring.

They had to supply their own fuel. There wasn't a bell on the apartment door. The dumbwaiter was broken and not in use. Garbage was collected at the door. The cords in the windows were broken. The ceiling in the kitchen was tin, but the other rooms had plastered ceilings which were cracked. There was a hole in the bathroom ceiling.

The walls in all the rooms were so cracked that it appeared as if the whole apartment would cave in any minute. There were big holes in the walls, also. The holes around the plumbing were so big that "rats as long as cats" came through them; the tenant had to try to plaster them for his and his mother's safety and comfort. (See picture on page 379.)

The tile in the bathroom was broken and cracked so that the tenant had to try to plaster it to keep from tripping (picture on page 379).

Although the tenants were not on relief, they were barely subsisting, since the mother was lucky to get one or two days' work at $2.10 a day each week, and her son makes only from $7 to $14 a week part time some weeks when he works as a stevedore for the Lackawanna Company, Pier 13.

The tenants had complained over and over to the landlord for months, but to no avail. It is unbelievable that a man could collect rent from people who were suffering under the deplorable conditions that these people were living. It is heartless for a landlord to hear complaints repeatedly and not do anything about them. Of course, this whole tenement is so old and in such a dilapidated condition, there is not much that could be done to make it even half as decent as it should be for occupancy by tenants. It is representative of most of the houses in this area, which need to be pulled down.

This case was a pathetic one, since the occupants were uninstructed and did not know to whom to turn for help. They were so eager when we called that they told us everything about the place and begged us to do something to help them.

Exhibit B

In 69 West 133rd Street, No. 3B, a five-room apartment, we found that the occupants had received an unbelievable raise of $7 from $28 to $35 in the year 1938. The cause for this extortionate increase was simply that the landlord had had the outside hall painted.

To see the interior of the apartment, one would think that the house was about to topple over—it is an old house through and through.

The plumbing is fair. The lighting is electric and defective wires are a problem. It is steamheated. In one year, 1935, there were seventeen (17) superintendents, because the tenants complained of no heat. We do not know the reason for this, but this is a most unusual, ridiculous, and suspicious action. In conducting our survey, we have been told by many tenants of different apartment houses that the landlords and superintendents are in connivance against the tenants; thus, complaints from the tenants were and are not heeded.

There are no bells upstairs or downstairs—violation of the Fire Department rules. The garbage is thrown down the airshaft—this violates the Fire Department, Sanitation, Tenement, and Health Departments rules. Sometimes, the garbage is called for. The cords in the windows are broken so that they slide down and are very dangerous. The ceilings have holes and big cracks from the rats and leaks. The walls have holes and cracks. From the floor, half-way up, the kitchen is wood all around. It is worn out and old-looking, harboring vermin. The floors are in such a bad condition that they squeak and are cracked; they have holes, also.

Although the exterminator comes once a week, the house is so old and in such a condition that rats, mice, roaches, and water bugs are constantly in the apartment. At one time, there were fleas in the house, although there were no animals in this particular apartment.

There are six people, young children being among them, who live in this apartment.

The average monthly income is $52 a month from W.P.A. plus a $32-a-month supplementary check from relief.

These tenants have complained repeatedly to the landlord about the conditions mentioned above, but to no avail.

Song to the Gentile

You put your arms around me
And call me brother,
You say that I am free;
And that no other
Race
Can boast the kindness
That is shown upon my
Face.
It was but yesterday I saw
My father hanging from a tree;
(And yet, you tell me I am free).
America is mine; (you say)
And all that in there is—
I recognize no kinship here.
I neither loath nor hate
You for your guile . . .
It is my fate
To suffer and to smile.
I know that . . . someday
All this will pass;
TIME will reverse the ruling class,
And those who scorn and prey today
Will bear the brunt of yesterday.
I hold no grudge . . .
No will of ill . . . to you
White Man;—
I merely pity
That which makes you think
You understand!

—John Adolph Turner

Buy NAACP Christmas Seals

More Samples of Harlem Tenements

Harlem Slum Tenements: Primary object of the housing committee of the NAACP Youth Council No. 1 in New York was to present evidence that another low-cost slum clearance housing project is needed badly in mid-Harlem. Some relief can be afforded tenants pending a new housing project if New York City tenement house inspectors will certify the flagrant violations shown here and on page 379. Upper left, a ladder and an old radiator block a doorway in an upper hall; upper right, typical backyard scene, violating fire, tenement, sanitation and health department regulations; lower left, bathroom and kitchen in the same room; lower right, bathtub in bedroom. All photos by NAACP Youth Council in cooperation with YMCA Camera club

Cincinnati's Theatre Doors Are Opened

By William A. McClain

THIS article is a guide to some of the typical factual problems, encountered by the Cincinnati Branch of the NAACP as they relate to the admission of Negroes to theatres on the same conditions and terms regardless of race or color.

Experience proves that a civil rights case must be planned in order to anticipate and outwit the tactics of management to refuse the admission of Negroes. In Ohio the theatre owners organized themselves and through such organization, together with the aid of various branches of the Chamber of Commerce, mutual information regarding the best techniques and strategy to evade the civil rights law was exchanged. To cope with this planned conspiracy to exclude Negroes, the Cincinnati Branch had to organize both offensive and defensive maneuvers. Every single case had to be rehearsed before it was staged. Principals and witnesses were told what to do and what not to do. Prior to staging the case, the Branch sent its white members to the theatres in order to ascertain all pertinent facts, such as the proper approach to the ticket window, the seating arrangement, and the appropriate time to send theatre excursions.

Motion pictures played a valuable part in the planning of the Cincinnati cases. Dr. G. Barrett Rich secured motion picture cameras for the Branch and actually took pictures of the refusals in the theatre lobbies. On one occasion, management after refusing the aggrieved party became so confused and excited when it learned motion pictures had been taken, that the manager begged to admit the colored patron if he would not prosecute. By such prior preparation the Branch was not only able to cope with the stratagems of management but to employ effective offensive maneuvers.

Witnesses

One of the psychological stratagems in the Cincinnati cases was the use of prominent white witnesses. These witnesses were placed in line next immediately preceding the prospective colored patrons and next immediately following them. The witnesses who preceded the prospective colored patrons were instructed to purchase tickets of admission, enter the theatre, and to ascertain the nature and extent of the accommodations therein. Those white witnesses who

For many years one of Ohio's largest cities has refused to admit Negroes to theatres, despite the Ohio civil rights statute. But a campaign of one year, carefully planned and executed by the Cincinnati branch of the NAACP with the assistance of liberal and crusading white people — members and non-members of the NAACP—succeeded last spring in finally breaking down the bars of the city's theatres

were immediately behind the Negro principals were directed to witness all verbal and physical facts of the refusal, purchase tickets of admission, and to attend the performance.

Dr. G. Barrett Rich, the liberal Pastor of Avondale Presbyterian church; Miss Eva Cleveland, a reputable business woman; Rev. William N. Hawley, the aggressive Pastor of Delta Methodist church, Delta, Ohio; Mrs. Alfred Moore, prominent clubwoman and civic leader; Dr. Joseph P. Fletcher, Dean of the Cincinnati School of Applied Religion; Mrs. Sally Weis, an ardent NAACP member and enthusiast; and members of the Youth Racial Amity Committee were some of the white witnesses in the Cincinnati cases. The use of these witnesses not only strengthened the factual bases of our cases, but added a psychological advantage by elimination of the purely racial atmosphere. In a word, our cases had an All-American complexion.

Principals

Much consideration had to be given to the choice of prospective colored patrons. In Cincinnati we used ordinary, honest, reputable citizens in the planning of our cases. Our classic case was James Smith vs. R.K.O. Midwest Theatre Corporation. The facts of this case revealed that James Smith, a brilliant student and star athlete of the University of Cincinnati approached the ticket window in the presence of Mrs. Sally Weis, Rev. William N. Hawley, and Miss Eva Cleveland, his white witnesses. Prospective patron Smith, wearing his freshman numerals, asked for a ticket and the ticket girl replied that "this house does not sell tickets to niggers." The girl then buzzed for the manager who appeared and confirmed her statement. After Patron Smith was refused, he calmly walked away without any further action or comment on his part.

Management was unable to prolong the encounter long enough to jockey Patron Smith into the position on which to base a defense of disorderly conduct against him. Throughout the whole scene, Patron Smith was polite, intelligent, self-controlled and fearless. He followed instructions perfectly and yet had enough initiative to adjust himself to original situations not contemplated by the planning committee of the Cincinnati Branch. Prospective patrons of this type cause management much anxiety because it is unable to trick them into losing their heads so that they can be immediately arrested by a police officer sympathetic to management. The Cincinnati Branch found that parties who were too argumentative and too belligerent made very poor prospective patrons.

Stratagems of Management

Under the Ohio Civil Rights statute, it is mandatory for the complaining party, in order to prosecute an action, to prove that the sole basis of his refusal was his color and race. The best maneuver on part of management is to exclude Negroes without refusing them admission. If management can offer a defense showing that the reason for the exclusion of the complainant was some fact other than that he was colored, the action will not be. In Ohio, the Branches discovered that management in most instances had instructed its employees to never say in "haec verba": "I refuse to sell you a ticket because you are colored". The ticket sellers usually would pretend purposely that the ticket machines were out of order when the prospective Negro patron requested a ticket, or would say simply, "I am sorry," or use any appropriate phrase short of an unequivocal refusal. In fact, some ticket agents did not say anything, but indulged in sort of a sit-down strike, refusing to sell any tickets until the colored complainant walked away.

By this trick, management hoped to test the courage of the prospective patron, and to appeal for the interference of some white bully to assault the Negro because his presence was halting the line before the ticket booth. On

one occasion, the ticket seller saw the prospective Negro patron fifth in line from her booth, and she told the prospective white patrons, who were in line, to come back later because there were no available accommodations. By the latter artifice, the prospective Negro patron was expected to walk away, so that he would never have the opportunity to approach the ticket window to ask for a ticket. On another occasion, the ticket girl stopped selling tickets to the line of patrons which included the Negro and opened a second window, thus forming a new line and excluding him.

All these attempts of management to jockey the prospective Negro patrons out of line were to no avail, because they were specifically instructed to stay peacefully in line under all circumstances, and to refrain from conversation with anyone except their own witnesses in the case. The Branch found this procedure successful in all cases where management purposely broke the ticket machines, or attempted to lure the prospective Negro patrons out of line by pretending to have no further accommodations.

In the cases where the second ticket window was opened and a new line was formed colored patrons entered both lines, so that eventually there was a stoppage at all points of admission to the theatres. Consequently, management had to refuse or grant the parties admission.

If the aggrieved parties were able to survive the preliminary round of maneuvers on the part of theatres to exclude Negroes without refusing them, management usually adopted more subtle strategy. It would send out an agent who would politely ask the colored complainant to get out of line so that they could talk over the delicate dilemma. In the Cincinnati cases, all parties were instructed to stay in line and refuse to indulge in any "peaceful persuasion" until management expressly refused to sell a ticket of admission. After the express refusal, the prospective colored patrons were advised to always leave without any lengthy discourse in order to avoid any violent encounters with management or members of the theatre-going public.

Lawyers

The Cincinnati Branch maintained the inter-racial aspect of its cases by the use of white as well as colored counsel. In addition to the services of Eugene W. Fulton and the writer, the Branch thought it wise to employ white counsel. We had much difficulty in obtaining the services of white prominent lawyers because they were usually

Members of the Civil Rights Planning Committee of the Cincinnati branch. Bottom row, left to right: Charles W. Hatcher, William A. McClain, branch president, Mrs. Sally Weis, and Clyde Sampson. Top row, E. W. Fulton, Dr. G. Barrett Rich, Theodore M. Berry, and Willis Weatherly

fearful of the professional or political implications of trying civil rights cases. However, the Branch was successful in obtaining the services of Attorney John W. Driskill, a prominent and brilliant lawyer. Not only did Attorney Driskill give a splendid performance in the trial of the case of Smith v. R.K.O. Midwest Corporation, but he donated to the Branch all his fee plus $50 which he took out of his own pocket. Such spirit and devotion of friends like Attorney Driskill made our theatre fight much easier and more effective.

Vexatious Litigation

The Association in Cincinnati launched its attack against the theatres in Cincinnati on the theory that constant annoyance and vexatious litigation would be such a prohibitive cost to the defendant theatre corporation for refusing admittance to Negro Americans that it would be more convenient to admit them. Proceeding on this theory the Cincinnati Branch selected the largest corporation, The R.K.O. Midwest Theatre Corporation, owning eight of the most fashionable theatres in the downtown district, and concentrated its attack on all of them. On certain days of the week, separate excursion groups were sent to all eight theatres at the same time of day. For a period of from five to thirty minutes, the business of these eight theatres was being interrupted at the same time because of the refusal to admit colored Americans.

But the cost of time and business for management did not end merely at the scene of the refusal. It had to spend court costs, attorney fees, and send officers of the corporation to defend each case of refusal. The Cincinnati Branch refused to settle the cases and annoyed the corporation by endless court procedure in every single case. And every victory for the corporation in court resulted in an increase in the number of theatre excursions. The price of discrimination against Negroes became too costly. Management realized that it was marching towards inevitable defeat, no matter what kind of technique it employed to exclude Negroes.

Finally a conference was held with Mrs. Sally Weis, and Rabbi David Philipson, representing the Branch, and I. Libson, representing R.K.O. management. Without making any commitments at this conference, Mr. Libson gave the matter a "sympathetic understanding". Mrs. Sally Weis in a follow-up conference obtained a statement from Mr. Libson that Negro Americans would be admitted to the R.K.O. Theatres on the same conditions and terms applicable to all persons alike regardless of race or color.

On May 24, 1941 every R.K.O. thea-

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Hitlerism Without Hitler

A Review* by George S. Schuyler

AT a time when Anglophile propagandists are manufacturing the most grotesque fictions about British democracy and asserting that its benefits will be enjoyed by the lowly colored folk after Nazidom has bit the dust and the world is again safe for the Bank of England, it is refreshing to read a book like this.

Our propagandists would have us believe that once Hitler is scotched, Hitlerism will disappear from the face of the earth. But this book shows us that Hitlerism exists in the six countries of East Africa without the presence of Hitler, and has been resident there for some time. Nor does the author hold out any hope that Hitlerism will disappear from East Africa no matter what happens to Adolf Schickelgruber.

Disfranchised

The white population of East Africa is negligible, perhaps not more than 100,000; while Negroes number 16,823,391. This is more people than there are in Czechoslovakia or in the Netherlands and Belgium, but we hear very little about the evils suffered by the East Africans. These nearly seventeen million Negroes have no vote, of course, and labor unions are forbidden by law, so the difference between East Africa and Atlanta Penitentiary is merely a matter of a few thousand miles, except that the federal convicts are treated better.

When chattel slavery was abolished over the opposition of the Lords and the Church of England, racial equality was decreed and for some time enjoyed in those colonies where Negroes and whites lived together. Gradually, however, the natives were enmeshed in the net of capitalist exploitation, and ended up with nothing. In the beginning, as one South African author has written, the white man had the Bible and the native had the land. Now the native has the Bible and the white man has the land.

Dr. Leys tells us, "Men who believe in and practice the policy of inequality, of discrimination on the ground of race, are in practically unchallenged authority in half of British Africa", meaning East and South Africa. We learn that most of the European children "go to Government schools" in Kenya, "at a cost to the Government of over £23 ($92) per child per year, exclusive of heavy capital charges for school buildings, one of which cost over £40,000 ($160,000). No African child is allowed to enter the schools for European children. Of the African children in Kenya, about 1 per cent go to Government schools, about 23 per cent go to schools belonging to the Christian Missions and the rest get no education at all. On the 1 per cent the Government spends less than £7 ($28) per child per year. It gives grants to some of the Mission schools that amount to 12s. ($3.00) per child per year. And the total expenditure by government on the education of all the African children in Kenya works out to about 4s.3d. per child per year". Certainly the Nazi outlay for educating Jews' children could not be much less.

British Institution

The author reminds us that "Colour bars are found only in British Africa. They do not exist in French, Portuguese and Belgian Africa. When a train crosses the international boundary between Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo, the 'white' guard and engine-driver, who are paid at least a pound ($4.00) a day, hand over to their 'black' counterparts, who at most are paid 5s. ($1.25) a day". While it is true that "In Kenya . . . some Africans have recently been allowed to drive railway engines . . . The doctrine of equal pay for equal work finds no favor in Africa." In Southern Rhodesia, "no African employed by either the Government or the municipalities gets a wage that is more than a fraction of what the lowest-paid European employee gets." It seems that "In both Rhodesia and in Kenya an African's life is so beset by colour bars that the moment he leaves his village home he meets them at every turn".

The Noble Masai

Tallest, most handsome people in the world are the Masai, famous Kenya huntsmen and herdsmen. Their land was teeming with game and their grazing grounds were of the best. The Government gave away land to white folks right and left until the Masai had only a fraction of their land left, mostly arid. Finally they were escorted from their remaining good land by British troops.

"In 1939, His Majesty signed two orders in Council that deal with land in Kenya. The one proclaims the exclusive ownership by Europeans *forever* of the so-called settled areas . . . The other . . . deals with 'native lands'" The two complete the robbery.

It is interesting to note that Negroes in British East Africa are not permitted to occupy most towns. They live in ghettoes at a distance, farther removed from the "superior" race than are the Jews in Berlin, Munich or Warsaw.

What has happened to the land of the Masai, has happened to that of the other black nations, now confined to arid or swamp lands, while the whites have the fertile, cool uplands. In Kenya, Dr. Leys asserts, "Practically all the land in the country that is fit to cultivate and is not contained in the Reserves has already been alienated".

In most places Negroes cannot own land at all except in Reserves and there the Government spends almost nothing for transportation facilities. In Kenya "The Government spends on the means of transport in the twelfth of the country where the land belongs to Europeans five times as much as it spends in the rest of the country, including both Crown Lands and Reserves." This twelfth the Europeans own contains one-half of all Kenya's arable land!

Sad Story of Kikuyu

The Kikuyu for centuries "had a system of land tenure that nearly approached individual freehold". One morning 50,000 woke up to find that "their homes belonged in law to the white strangers". Having no place to go they stayed on, paying sometimes 12s. an acre for the privilege of doing so. It is, as has been said, "an offense for an African to live at all anywhere outside his tribal Reserve or in townships, except on certain conditions". When he lives on the white man's land, he must work for the owner "for at least 180 days of each year as the owner chooses". When his "master" sells the land, the native is sold with it. Tanganyika, Uganda and Nyasaland are better in this respect.

When it comes to taxes, East Africa cannot be beat. The natives who get least, pay proportionately most. A mere

(*Continued on page* 389)

**The Colour Bar In East Africa* by Norman Leys (The Hogarth Press, London. 7s.6d)

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

Shall We Have Another Separate Officers' Training Camp?

Baltimore, Md., *Afro-American*

Fulton Lewis, white radio commentator, speaking over the Mutual System from Washington, reported that a large group of responsible colored leaders is advocating a separate officers' training camp such as we had in World War I at Fort Des Moines.

This raises the question: should colored officers need a separate training camp?

At present, all officers, colored and white, are being trained together in schools from Pennsylvania through Virginia to Georgia, and as far as we know there is no friction or compiaint.

This system has many advantages. We have no time now to erect buildings for a separate school and secure a faculty. Present schools specializing in artillery, medicine, infantry, anti-aircraft and flying are running full blast and our soldiers are studying in them.

It is also quite important that army officers who are to work together in the field should study together in the schools where they may become acquainted and each comes to respect the other's ability.

The AFRO opposed a separate colored officers' school in 1917 and it opposes the movement to organize another today.

What we do want and what the army needs are more colored officers. Figures published in these columns two months ago showed that the army is short of 4,308 colored officers.

For every fifteen enlisted white soldiers there is a white officer, but there are 220 enlisted colored soldiers for every colored officer.

Ollie Stewart's exclusive AFRO stories on the army camps show how vicious is the present system and how resentful the recruits are because they are denied promotion and the association with superiors of their own race.

Fort Bragg, the largest U. S. colored training camp has a few colored chaplains and medical officers.

Fort Huachuca in Arizona, the only all-colored camp in the country, has no colored officers.

At Fort Knox, probably the worst army camp, there are not even colored corporals and sergeants.

In this situation, what leaders of every shade of opinion must do is apparent.

The War Department and the President must be asked to direct corps area commanders to certify without delay colored men to existing officers' schools as rapidly as they qualify.

The Navy Department's order to use the letter "N" on the identification badges of Negro employees at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, was of no surprise to us. Indeed no one familiar with the undemocratic traditions of the American navy should even wonder at the inauguration of such a practice.

Washington officials from whom the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has sought an explanation, so far have not given a satisfactory answer. The reason is obvious—there is none.

The bold fact is that the navy will go to any lengths to humiliate Negroes in whatever capacity they are serving. Those of us who had hoped for a change of attitude upon the advent of Colonel Knox to this branch of the service, have been indulging in wishful thinking. For, under him the Navy is manifesting greater disregard of the democratic rights of the black citizenry than had been observed heretofore.—Chicago, Ill., *Defender*.

Senator Alben W. Barkley, Democrat of Kentucky and the majority leader in the United States Senate, made a stirring speech a few days ago against racial antagonism.

The occasion was a meeting of the Jewish National Fund Association and the speaker's audience was made up largely of members of the Jewish race and the Senator from Kentucky availed himself of the opportunity to strike at racial prejudice in a broad sense because the Jews, as a minority group, have suffered severely at the hands of Adolph Hitler and his axis followers. . . . In his address the Senator is quoted as having said:

"Attempts to stir racial antagonism strikes at the order of true Americanism. No more contemptuous disregard of all the principles of Americanism can be indulged in than that effort which prompts any man claiming to be an American to seek to arouse one portion of his fellow men against another portion because of race, religion or color."

If Mr. Barkley were sincere (and we think he was) then he has offered a mighty challenge to himself and his associates in the United States Congress. . . .

Every day—three hundred and sixty-five times a year—propaganda against the Negroes, because of their race, is flashed before the eyes of the Senator from Kentucky. Discrimination of many shades and varieties are brought almost daily to the attention of the members of congress and the President of the United States as well as other government officials. But these are allowed to continue unchallenged by such powerful men as Mr. Barkley. Evidently they little realize that such discrimination if allowed to continue among one group will spread to other races and minority groups and finally undermine and overthrow our so-called democracy.—St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

. . . During the last war, a separate training school for Negro officers was set up at Des Moines, Iowa, and as a result only Negro infantry officers were commissioned.

Under the present policy, Negroes are attending the Artillery School at Fortress Monroe, Va., the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga., and the schools for many other branches of army life. The only segregated officers school is the Pursuit Squadron of the Army Air Corps which has been established at Tuskegee Institute, and many Negroes feel that it is better to not have members of their race in the Air Corps if they are to be segregated into separate units.—New York, N. Y., *Age*.

Call it politics or whatever you please, Gov. Culbert L. Olson jumped the hurdle of excuses made by his predecessor governors of California and appointed a young Negro lawyer to the municipal bench last week. . . .

The appointment is profoundly significant. In essence, it is an opening wedge for the integration of Negroes throughout the State's entire judiciary. It is also a triumphant banner proclaiming that California has joined that select list of States which have decided to become true exponents of "the democratic way."—Los Angeles, Calif., *Eagle*.

I Sent Regrets

By George C. Morse

A school boy learns that the U. S. Constitution has to take a back seat for a mob

I SAW Miss Terwilliger today. She didn't see me and I was almost tempted to walk near her so she could see me. I wanted to see the reaction on her face. I was quite sure she hadn't forgotten me. It wasn't so many years ago that I was in her English class in high school. I wouldn't care to sit in her English class now to look at her dried-up wrinkled face. Miss Terwilliger never married, seldom smiled or talked like a human-being. Her speech was always perfect and well-enunciated. It was a hobby of hers to teach elocution to her favorite pupils and advise them to go forth and save the language from complete degradation.

I'll never forget the day she told me to remain after school hours and come to her class. I thought that I was to be reprimanded for inattention and talking in class while she lectured on Shakespeare or somebody else. I approached her in a resigned attitude for a severe scolding when she shocked me by smiling at me. "David, I am proud to tell you that your essay for the contest was the best submitted and the faculty has chosen you to represent the school in the annual state oratorical contest," she announced to me. The contest that she referred to was sponsored by patriotic organizations. The theme every year was the Constitution or something pertaining to the Constitution. I was so surprised I didn't know what to say. "You are the first colored boy to be so honored," she added. "I hope you realize that this is an indication of our fairness and adherence to merit only."

"I'll do my best," I answered, not knowing what else to say.

"Well, take your essay home with you and memorize it as soon as possible. When you have memorized it, then you will practice for oratorical perfection. I have made a few grammatical changes, but your essay was very good, I thought."

I read the essay over on the trolley on my way home. I thought it sounded pretty good myself. I wrote it during an inspired mood. It was full of praise for the Constitution. I compared it to the Ten Commandments. I said in so many high-sounding phrases that it brought salvation to people who fled from political oppression. It guaranteed equality, and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It served as a criterion for other governments to follow. I thought and wrote that the Constitution was a document that preserved the best that democracies had fashioned.

Ma was bending over a wash-tub when I arrived, for the sun had come out that afternoon and Ma wanted to get her white folks' clothes out on the line. I felt sorry for Ma because she had to work so hard washing and ironing clothes for white folks. She said often that I must finish high school and go to college because she didn't want me to work for white folks. "Ma, what do you think happened?" I blurted out. "I have been selected to represent the school in their annual state oratorical contest. Miss Terwilliger told me this afternoon. She said my essay was the best. What do you think of your son, now?"

She stopped her work and her face was a broad smile. "Your father is going to be proud of you when you tell him. They give a prize to the winner, don't they?"

"Yes, a silver loving cup," I told her.

"Lord, I hope you wins it. What are you going to speak about, son?"

"The Constitution."

"The Constitution? What you mean?"

"Our country's Constitution, you know, the laws framed by the Founders," I explained.

"That's right, so it is. I guess you think your Ma don't know much. I forgot so much of my learning."

I kissed her and said, "You have wisdom, Ma, and that is more important than book learning."

When my father came for supper, Ma couldn't wait for him to remove his coat before she said, "Tell your father, son."

I told him about being selected to speak for the school. "That's fine son," he replied. He didn't show much enthusiasm. He looked as though he was brooding over something. Ma said he thought too much, always dreaming and talking like a philosopher. I remembered Ma's telling him that other men did things while he dreamed and talked about things. She was mad when she said it because Pa didn't fix the faucet in the sink one day when she was out working. But I thought Pa was quite smart and would do something worthwhile if he had the chance. He wasn't making much money as an insurance agent. That was why Ma was taking in washing and working herself to death. And Ma would tell him that Uncle Ben was making plenty of money as a mechanical dentist and she wished he would take up something besides insurance.

Ma was furious at Pa's indifference. "He's going to represent the high school, going to compete against speakers from all over the state. You might try to encourage him."

Pa smiled. "I used to speak in school too. Teachers said I was smart, but when you're colored it doesn't mean much, son. White folks don't like smart niggers."

I wasn't surprised to hear Pa say that. He was always saying things like that. Pa even said that he would rather go to hell being a sinner like he was than to go to church with those ignorant Christians. That would cause Ma to cry and pray for Pa. And Ma invited the minister to speak to Pa about his soul once and Pa only laughed at him and asked him a lot of questions he couldn't answer.

IN a week's time I had learned my speech. Miss Terwilliger coached me. She taught me something about gestures and changing my voice. She said she was confident that I would make a fine showing in the contest. And Ma was pretty happy until Pa came home one evening and said that Uncle Ben was having some trouble. Uncle Ben had bought a new house on a nice quiet street in the city. The second night that Uncle Ben and his family occupied it, a fiery cross was found on the lawn to warn Uncle Ben that his neighbors didn't approve of him. Pa said his neighbors had a meeting and decided to get rid of Uncle Ben. They sent him threatening letters just because he was colored and liked to have a nice home.

Pa was worried about Uncle Ben and his family. He would stay at Uncle Ben's home until very late at night and Ma would worry about Pa staying up late like that. So one Friday night when Ma had gone to church I went to Uncle Ben's house where Pa was. I found him playing cards with Uncle Ben and two other men. Uncle Ben had a nice home and I liked to imagine myself having a home like that myself. Pa didn't like the idea of my coming there.

"What happened to you and Mary"

he asked. "I thought this was your calling night?"

"She has another boy friend. She thinks I'm too slow," I confided.

Pa didn't say anything and resumed playing. I began to read a book that I found on the shelf. About nine o'clock I heard a noise as something hit the roof of the house. Uncle Ben and Pa stopped playing and went to the window. I looked out, too, and saw a mob of people gathering in front of the house. I was glad then that Aunt Martha and her children had gone to church with Ma. They were calling Uncle Ben names and jeering. Then they hurled a volley of stones at the house. Some of the stones came crashing through the windows. Pa ordered me to go upstairs lest I get hurt. He then ordered everybody upstairs. I thought it funny that he would even order Uncle Ben in his own house. "Where is it?" I heard Pa ask Uncle Ben.

"In the closet," Uncle Ben told him. I could see that Uncle Ben was scared.

When Pa came upstairs, he had a shotgun in his hand. He stood there at the window in the front bedroom quite calm and composed. I wished Ma could have seen him then, because we were all scared, and he was so calm. We didn't see any police around even though there was a big mob and the noise was terrific. More stones began to thunder on the house and every window had been broken. Pa stood there with the shotgun in his hand talking in a whisper to Uncle Ben. Some stones had done considerable damage to the furnishings in the house. The mob began to yell louder. Some of the ringleaders began to draw nearer and the mob surged behind them. They called us more vile names.

I saw Pa crouch as though he was taking aim with his gun. I was fearful for the worst then. One of the ringleaders was approaching the house with a torch in his hand to set the house on fire. I heard the report of the shotgun and the man fell right on the steps, the torch burning by his feet on the sidewalk. The crowd moved back, fearful of the shotgun. "I got him," Pa whispered to Uncle Ben.

Nobody ventured to see if the man was dead or alive. But soon we could hear the sirens blowing as the police drove up in patrols and radio cars. As they arrived Pa put the shotgun back where he got it in the closet and prepared to surrender. "We don't know who fired the gun," Uncle Ben said, meaning we were not to tell on Pa. The police ordered us to admit them. Uncle Ben went downstairs to let them in. The police had revolvers in their hands as they came into the house. "All of you are under arrest," the sergeant said.

"You were late in coming here," Pa said. "I suppose you didn't know about this mob?"

"Who shot him?" the sergeant asked us.

Nobody answered. They ordered us out into the street into a waiting patrol. The mob was crying for blood. "Lynch the niggers. Lynch the niggers," some of them cried in chorus.

THEY put the five of us in one cell at first. Then they called to Pa to come with them into a room. He returned in a half-hour all bruised up. Pa was cursing to himself. Then they asked for Uncle Ben. He returned the same as Pa, shaking and whispering, "I didn't tell 'em."

They called the other two men who were strangers to me, and one of them came back crying. Then it was my turn. I was directed to a room where men in civilian clothes and men in police uniform were gathered. I was told to sit down. "Who fired the gun?" one of them asked me.

"I don't know," I answered.

"So you don't know, eh? Do you know that all five of you will get the chair because you don't know who fired that gun. 'We don't know' is a poor answer for you five."

"What were you doing in the house?"

"I was reading a book," I replied.

"When the man was killed you were reading a book," someone repeated sarcastically.

"No, I was dodging the stones that were thrown through the window," I told them.

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"Come on, kid, tell us who fired the gun or it will go hard on you."

"I don't know," I replied.

One of them grabbed my arm from behind and began to twist it. I cried out with pain. "Who shot him?" they persisted.

"I don't know," I exclaimed with tears in my eyes. The pain was terrific. My inquisitors continued to ask me and I kept telling the same answer. They finally returned me to the cell. I was broken physically but not in the determination to shield my father.

Ma came to see us the next morning. She was crying and had brought us some food. Ma and Aunt Martha and her children were at church when they heard about the incident. Ma showed us the newspaper with big headlines about a white man being killed by five Negroes. The pictures which photographers took as soon as we were arrested were on the front page. Ma told us a committee of colored folks had gotten together to get us a good lawyer. The papers stated we had gotten together in a conspiracy to kill. About noon, a lawyer had come to see us. He was big and robust and laughed at our fears of the electric chair. He said he came from an association. He told us not to talk to anybody about the case. He then asked us a lot of questions and kept rubbing his chin as he took down notes. Pa told him that he fired the shotgun and decided to stand trial alone after thinking it over. The lawyer said he shouldn't do it.

"There is no law against a man living in his own house is there?" Uncle Ben sobbed to the lawyer. "I just wanted a decent place to raise my children where I could have a lawn, and flowers and some sunlight."

When the lawyer came the next time to see us, he told me that Ma gave him the essay that I wrote. He was glad to get it, he told us. He would use it at our trial, he said. He would read it to the jury to educate them about the rights of citizens to live unmolested in their own homes. I was so worried about our destiny that I had forgotten that I was the chosen representative of the high school.

I BEGAN to think of Miss Terwilliger and how shocked she must have been to see my picture on the front page as a criminal. So when Ma brought me some stationery I wrote Miss Terwilliger a letter to send my regrets for not being able to speak in the contest in behalf of the Constitution. She never answered that letter. She never even came to see me to tell me she was glad I was acquitted when we were released.

The South Stirs

III—The Pulpit and the New South

By Harold Preece

"And before I'll be a slave,
I'll be buried in my grave,
Take my place with those who loved and
fought before."
—Modern version of an old Negro spiritual, "No More Mourning."

THE venerable old patriarch at the head of the procession turned around, raised his hand, and the singing stopped as the marchers neared the Paducah, Ky., city hall. Then he opened the massive Bible which he had been carrying under his arm, looked over the sea of crudely-painted picket signs bearing such inscriptions as "Mr. Mayor, When Do We Eat?," and then said in a voice which was half-boom, half-drawl:

"Brothers and sisters, we're a-goin' into the city hall to see the Mayor about gittin' more relief so our young-uns won't pine away 'fore our very eyes. Now I hope that everybody in this line is a lamb's blood Christian 'cause when we march down here, we're a doin' the Lord's work—praise His holy name!

"We're mighty glad to have with us today our Negro brothers and sisters from several congregations 'cause their bellies are plumb swivelled up like our'n. We're happy because they learned us the song, 'No More Mournin', which we've been singin' along the way. We want to testify fer the Lord here by tellin' 'em that the Lord set up the Holiness church to save men's souls and the Workers Alliance to git food fer their bodies."

Every man and woman in that white Holiness congregation at Paducah, Ky., belongs to the Workers Alliance—one of the many labor organizations pushing up like spring growths from the long fallow soil of the South. Primitive Christians with the apostolic fire of the early Church, they turn out 100 per cent in every demonstration of the unemployed. Poor and illiterate as the slaves and tentmakers who listened to Paul and Silas, they open their church to speakers from labor organizations and echo fervent "amens" when these speakers tell them that the Word means salvation from want here as well as salvation from sin after they have been put away in rough wooden boxes "on the hill."

As the early Christians refused to recognize any distinctions of race, saying that "all men were equal before God," so the Holiness Christians of Paducah refuse to scab in any strike of either white or colored workers.

Church Crusades

This and other congregations of many denominations from Kentucky to Oklahoma are the very soul of the New South. When people as profoundly religious as black and white Southerners begin to transform their churches into very fortresses of rebellion, something that the planters and landlords never looked for is in the air. Southern Protestantism—since the collapse of the Reconstruction governments, a collection of folk cults blending local mythologies with fanatical dogmas—is once more, as in the days of chattel slavery, becoming an instrument of deliverance for the southern people.

Southern preachers from the cornfields and the coal pits are becoming some of the outstanding leaders of a people where democracy is being reborn from struggles on the picket lines and sermons in the churches which have felt the tremendous impact of the American labor movement. Preachers—white and black—are the best stewards of the United Mine Workers, that powerful CIO union whose successful fight against the wage differential for southern miners will eventually be reflected in better pay and working conditions for all industrial workers in that region where whole families have worked like mules for a combined wage of less than ten dollars per week.

One of the South's most dynamic leaders is that well-known Negro preacher, Rev. Owen H. Whitfield, pastor of a congregation in the plantation country of Southern Missouri and international vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers. His wife, Mrs. Zella Whitfield, a quiet, efficient little woman spends her time organizing UCAPAWA auxiliaries where white and black wives meet to learn how they can back up their husbands in the union and how they can make better homes on what little they have. The whole nation remembers Rev. Whitfield's leadership of the Southern Missouri sharecroppers when they were driven out on the roads to starve in that bitter winter of 1938.

Whitfield's Doctrine

When you ask Rev. Whitfield if the teachings of the CIO coincide with the teachings of Christianity, he replies for thousands of southern Christians by saying:

"This is just the kind of teaching my people need. Negroes have sung and prayed and talked about a home above when there wasn't a crumb of bread in the house. They have been preparing to die for three hundred years and never have thought much about how to live. While they've been looking up, somebody has been stealing every dime they made. It's time we opened our eyes and looked around—WATCH as well as pray. That is what I preach in the church and in the union. I used to preach that other stuff. But this talks about how to get some of the benefits of our work in this life. It's the religion OF Jesus and it's what I'M preaching from now on out."

When a people first awaken, they find their primary expression through their traditional folk forms. The striking North Carolina textile workers knew none of the modern labor songs when they began their fight for security back in 1929. So they walked out of the mills singing, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Throughout the South in these twelve years that have followed, echoes of revolt against the southern landlords and industrialists have reached the pulpits. But it remained for another southern prophet, Rev. Claude Williams, to coordinate the efforts of rebellious preachers and laymen throughout the region through his Peoples Institute of Applied Religion in Little Rock.

Claude Williams

Claude Williams is as southern as the hills and rivers of his native Arkansas. He took the teachings of Christ much too seriously for the men of wealth who controlled the finances of his denomination. So Claude Williams was driven from the pulpit as the young Spinoza was once driven from the synagogue—their heresy being that they both loved mankind.

Then Claude Williams went out into

the broader parish of mankind. His institute has become the training school for the cornfield preachers of the South who go back to their people and give them the real message of Christ: that the world was created for all peoples of all colors and that its good things were meant to be enjoyed by all peoples. They carry with them elaborate charts emphasizing the difference between the world as it is and the world as it should be. After listening to Claude at a training session in their own state, they learn that they can serve the southern people effectively by helping them to organize into labor and farm unions. These preachers also call ministers in their home localities into conferences where those present kindle the brotherhood of man instead of the traditional lake of brimstone.

Two of Claude's disciples—Rev. A. L. Campbell, of Wilson, Ark.; and Rev. D. C. Williams, of East Prairie, Mo., are ex-members of the Ku Klux Klan. Now they are preaching from their pulpits that Negro and white southerners must get together to build a country where democracy will be a fact as well as a name. I saw one of the letters that Rev. Campbell wrote to Claude.

"I've seen the light and now want to do something that I'm not ashamed of and don't have to hide my head under a hood to do," the preacher said in his letter.

The Institute sinks roots among the southern people by setting up county committees composed of representatives from five or more church, labor, or community organizations. Who can say but these county committees will not prove nuclei from which may emerge the great people's movement that will bring complete democracy to the South. A director has been appointed for each state. The director for my home state of Texas is a Negro preacher, Rev. J. E. Clayton, who is building up an influence over rural Texans that Congressman Martin Dies would probably envy.

Don West

Every month, there comes to me a little paper from Meansville, Ga., "The Country Parson." Mixed in with the announcements of box suppers and missionary society meetings are accounts of resolutions against the poll tax and against peonage passed by women's and youth organizations in the Congregational-Christian parish of its publisher, Rev. Donald L. West.

Those dead Negro preachers who helped lead the slave rebellions would find a blood brother in the young white mountaineer, Don West. He is preacher, poet, and leader of the people in a combination that is the New South personified. Today, he is helping to organize the Farmers Union in his parish; yesterday, he organized the unemployed for relief and the textile workers for better wages. In "Toil and Hunger," one of his two published volumes of poetry, he aptly describes himself:

". . . the poet
Is a cry for justice
The Agitator
Is the restless soul of the
Toiling millions . . .
Stirring, stumbling, groping
Toward
A new world, a world of plenty
And peace!

There is much work to be done however before peace and plenty will come to the South and all its tortured millions. Before democracy wins in the old states south of the Mason-Dixon line, many men and women of races will be martyred by the vigilantes and the night riders. Into the face of the masked men, Don West throws this accusation:

"Slow southern rivers
Murmur gently over bones
Of dead Negroes.
The river covers many a lie
And so does the soft drawling voice
Of the ruling South."

But I know the southern people . . . the Don Wests from the Georgia hills and the Owen Whitfields from the Missouri plantations. I remember the resolution passed by the white Georgia Baptist Convention against peonage, quoted in an earlier article. I know the new feeling which is being expressed in the ramshackle little bethels and the country schoolhouses where my people —white and black—gather.

Miserable and ignorant, we once looked for our Zion only in a shadowy other-world where presumably the sting of the overseer's whip would be eased and where we would exchange our perpetual cornbread and sowbelly for the great feasts of the elect described by our preachers.

Now we know that the South is our Zion—that our salvation must be worked out in her fields and her factories. But we did not make the mistake of our northern brothers and abandon our churches to those who have little faith in man. We continued to build our churches as expressions of what we wanted at the same time that we began to build our labor unions and our civil rights' organizations.

The church is still our ark of the covenant—the new covenant between white man and black man to free the South. And if the South is freed, what other part of America can remain in bondage?

Buy NAACP Christmas Seals

Cincinnati Theatres

(*Continued from page* 383)

tre admitted the excursion parties of the Branch without hindrance. As soon as the R.K.O. theatres were opened to Negroes all smaller theatres opened their doors simultaneously. Thus, through planned theatre excursions and vexatious litigation, the Cincinnati Branch set a historical precedent in the State of Ohio by its successful one-year campaign against the Cincinnati theatres which had notoriously and traditionally excluded Negroes.

Hitlerism

(*Continued from page* 384)

listing of the taxes they pay would be wearisome. There are three thousand tax defaulters a year in Kenya "sentenced to a month's labor in a 'detention camp' ". The amount of taxes varies from 5s to 20s a year, but in every case it is too high, since the highest paid workers among Negroes do not get more than $100 a year, while the lowest paid white men are paid from $1,000 to $2,000 a year. Black gold miners' wages are $2.75 for a 30-day month. The average monthly black wage is 12 shillings, about $3.00.

Dr. Leys' criticism is devastating. He spares no one, unless it be the white missionaries, and perhaps justifiably so. He does not believe that this British Hitlerism should be ended gradually but at one fell swoop. The only hope for the natives, who are being rapidly proletarianized, is complete democracy; and that is the very last thing that their white overlords have any intention of granting.

This is not a pleasant book for those who hug the delusion that the British Empire is a democratic institution, and that once Hitler and the Nazis are downed the black folk will come into their own.

New U. S. O. Building To Open for Holidays

Completion of the new United Service Organization Building for colored soldiers in Petersburg near Camp Lee, Va., in ample time for festivities of the holiday season is expected as construction progresses according to schedule. Erection of the building on the Byrne street site in Petersburg began early in November, and the foundation and framing work are well under way.

The zig zag rail fence, commonly used by farmers throughout the South, was introduced into this country by Africans brought here as slaves.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Ft. Bragg Killer Still Unknown, Says Stimpson

The killer of a Negro private and a white sergeant of military police in a row on a bus at Fort Bragg, N. C., the night of August 6, is still unknown, it was asserted by Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, in a letter to the N.A.A.C.P. November 10.

All reports at the time of the shooting agreed that Sergeant E. L. Hargrave, white military policeman, had been killed by Private Ned Turman, colored, who, in turn, was killed by Sergeant Russell Owens, another white military policeman. These accounts were given by the daily papers, the Associated Press, Negro weekly papers, a personal investigator for the N.A.A.C.P., a reporter for the New York newspaper, *P.M.*, and eye-witnesses.

Despite all this, Secretary Stimson stated in his letter to the N.A.A.C.P. that an examination of the bullets showed that both Hargrave and Turman were killed by bullets from Hargrave's gun.

Denies Racial Angle

The cursing and beating up of Negro soldiers following the incident is not mentioned by Secretary Stimson in his letter to the NAACP, although the excuse is given that the rounding up of all persons for the purpose of locating and listing "all important witnesses" was a "logical necessity," which was "not realized by the soldiers at the time, and unfortunately, has been largely misrepresented as a measure involving racial considerations."

In this connection, the N.A.A.C.P., in reply to Secretary Stimson, stated that every account of the treatment of the soldiers after the incident on the bus agreed upon the cursing, beating, humiliation, intimidation, and terror imposed upon the men indiscriminately at gun point. It was reported at the time, and not denied, that white military policemen "ran wild" in their intimidation of all Negro soldiers, including a Negro chaplain with the rank of lieutenant. All accounts pointed to a sharp racial conflict.

In spite of this testimony, the Stimson letter asserts, "a noteworthy feature of the investigating officer's report is the finding that, in no respect did the incident itself, or its after effects, acquire any semblance of a conflict of racial sentiments; and that the occurrence did not arise from, or cause any, tendency toward racial discrimination."

Secretary Stimson's letter also points out that the officers who investigated this affair and arrived at the above conclusion included Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, attached to the Inspector General's office.

Polexaphan Photo

THOMAS C. JENKINS

During the Chicago branch membership campaign, Mr. Jenkins secured the memberships of 52 waiters at the Palmer House by getting them to give ten cents or more of their tips each day until the dollar was paid. Mr. Jenkins became a PANCA by his individual work in attaining the set quota

Still Seek Slayer

The Stimson letter asserts that investigation is being carried on "in an effort to determine with certainty the identity of the soldier who did the shooting."

The N.A.A.C.P. letter of reply expresses surprise that the War Department after three months has been unable to discover the identity of the killer. In response to Secretary Stimson's warning that colored people ought not to accept newspaper reports of occurrences, the NAACP pointed out that the War Department "has no impressive record of unbiased treatment of Negro soldiers to which the Negro public can refer and thus discount newspaper accounts."

Buy NAACP Christmas Seals

Citizens Repudiate J. C. Officers' School

On October 20 Fulton Lewis, Jr., broadcasting over the Mutual System, stated "a large group of the most responsible Negro leaders in the country has appealed to President Roosevelt in a formal official letter opposing the present policy of the army whereby Negro officers are being trained in the same school as white officers."

The broadcast had wide repercussions. In answer to an NAACP inquiry David Stick, an assistant to Lewis, stated that the information had been given to the newscaster by Edgar G. Brown, president of the United Government Employees and others. A telegraphic inquiry by the NAACP to 60 outstanding Negro leaders in every field including church, finance, journalism, the professions, education, labor, and fraternities and clubs, secured 55 answers stating that these persons were opposed to separate training schools for Negro officers.

In response to an inquiry by the NAACP the War Department stated that the question of separate training schools "is not before the department."

Harlem Crime

Strongly condemning the action of New York daily newspapers (except PM) in inventing and sensationalizing on an alleged crime wave in Harlem, the Board of Directors of the NAACP at its November meeting passed a resolution inviting Mayor LaGuardia to call a conference on Harlem conditions using as a basis the recommendations of the committee which investigated the 1935 riots.

The NAACP along with other organizations, pointed out that there is no crime wave, but there are social maladjustments due to discrimination in employment, poor housing, lack of recreation, and broken families.

Deltas Pay $100 on NAACP Life Membership

A check for $100 as payment on a Life Membership in the NAACP was received from the Delta Sigma Theta sorority on November 13.

The check was enclosed in a letter signed by Miss Beatrice E. Penman, Delta grand treasurer, who stated:

This group brought in 20 or more memberships in the annual campaign of the Chicago, Ill. branch, to become PANCAS for 1941. Sitting, left to right: Mrs. Cecelia McWhirter, Mrs. Blanche Morris, Mrs. Genevieve Jenkins, Josephine McDaniel, Mrs. Geneva Cobb, Mrs. Estelle Maye, Ethel Payne and Mrs. Mary B. Knight. Standing, Mrs. Effie R. Foster, Ulysses S. Keys, Blanche V. Shaw, Oscar C. Brown, Ethel Hilliard, Beatrice Hughes, Mrs. Emma S. Harding, Samuel Golden, Mrs. Esther Phillips, Roosevelt Phillips, C. Udell Turpin, and Howard Davis

"We deeply appreciate the work that you are doing in the interest of colored people, and we wish you continued success."

$1,061 Raised By Wilmington NAACP

With last reports just in, the Wilmington, Delaware branch of the NAACP announces that it raised a total of $1,061.50, and recruited 1,010 members in its annual membership campaign which was directed by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary for the NAACP.

Branch president is the Reverend Seymour H. Barker; Secretary is Mrs. Jean S. Jackson.

From the impetus of the Wilmington drive, citizens of Dover, Del., nearby, have begun a membership drive of their own.

One of the first memberships to be taken out in the Wilmington campaign was that of the Mayor, Albert W. James, when Mrs. Lampkin and a delegation called upon him. Following this, Mrs. Lampkin was the proud recipient of the following unsolicited letter from Mayor James:

"In view of your splendid efforts on behalf of the advancement of the Colored People, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you a Symbolic Key to the City of Wilmington.

"You are to be commended for your excellent work, and I wish for you every success while conducting the campaign in Wilmington."

Branch News

California: The Sacramento branch tendered a reception in October in the Shiloh Baptist church, for the soldiers at Mather Field. President of the branch is Frank C. Canson, and Douglas McFarland headed the reception committee.

The annual service of the San Bernardino branch was held in October at the New Hope Baptist church. Rev. O. V. Hall's subject was "The Democratic Spirit of Christianity."

Connecticut: The Bridgeport branch held its membership campaign during the latter part of October with a goal of 1,000 members. A rally was held on November 9, at which time Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the Association, was principal speaker. John Lancaster is president of the branch, and Robert Thompson, chairman of the membership committee.

Delaware: The Wilmington branch at the end of its intensive membership campaign on November 9, reported a membership of 1,002 members. The drive was conducted by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary, who was assisted by Rev. S. H. Barker, president of the branch, and committee members: Mesdames E. Fleming, J. S. Jamison, Irma Lawson, Thelma Jones, Elizabeth Banton, Neonta Caesar, E. Anderson, Mollie Fleming, and Eleanor Hollis; Dr. Ruth A. Cook, P. J. Harris, A. W. Reed, Jr., J. Chippey, Pauline Young, and innumerable others. Twenty teams canvassed the city for members, and among those who were reported as receiving honorable mention for having reached the individual workers goal were: Mr. Thornton, Rev. Barker, Mrs. R. T. Peaco, Mrs. G. G. LeMay, L. L. Redding, Mrs. E. Banton, Frances Bordley, Gertrude Henry, Anna Broadnax, Vivian Jenkins, Dr. Wm. Henry, Mrs. J. S. Jamison, Marjorie Jackson, Mrs. Josie Driggess, Dr. Milburn, L. J. Porter, A. W. Reed, and Pauline Young. Others were Mrs. I. Hurtt, Mrs. Mollie Fleming, Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. L. Richards, Mr. E. Fleming, and W. A. Robinson.

District of Columbia: At the largest membership meeting in recent years, the D. C. branch on November 11 unanimously elected James E. Scott, civic leader and business man, as president. Other officers elected were: Mrs. Gertrude B. Stone, first vice-president; Mrs. Ruby Hawkins, second vice-president; Dr. John Lovell, Jr., secretary; and W. Robert Ming, Jr., treasurer. The executive committee consists of Mrs. F. W. Alstork, J. R. Bates, George Brice, W. P. Brooks, Dr. M. Curtis, J. W. Cromwell, H. Douglass, D. Ferguson, Roy Garvin, G. W. Goodman, L. E. Graves, Judge William H. Hastie, Dr. C. Herbert Marshall, W. L. McConnell, Leon A. Ransom, J. T. Rhines, J. N. Ward, U. S. Tate, Rev. R. M. Williams, Howard Woodson, and branch officers.

Dr. Marshall's final report discussed the developments of the branch during his administration (May, 1939 to Nov., 1941) and the general policies pursued. He laid considerable emphasis upon inadequate personnel as far as the regular committees and general activity of the branch is concerned.

He urged all members to find the place in the broad program of the NAACP in which their time and talents can be used to improve the situation of the colored population in Washington, and pledged his continued support, activity and counsel. The report of the secretary listed the types of cases which have been handled by the D. C. branch during the past year. In the field of physical security there has been a continuous fight against violence on the part of the police as well as cases involving children in which police officers exceeded their authority; children and women subjected to criminal assault by white men; the health of the community imperiled by bad milk; negligent treatment of colored patients by local hospitals and ambulance service; and demands for full police investigation in the deaths of colored persons; and the defense of Negroes accused of crime where circumstances indicated that their liberty was imperiled largely because of their race. There have been continuous efforts to prevent the extension of and to break down the discriminations existing against Negroes in places of public accommodation, recreation, health facilities and housing. Dr. Lovell stated that the fight for economic security has brought into the branch office several hundred cases involving discrimination against colored workers in private industry and business, and in government service. The branch has endeavored to handle these matters on the basis that each individual case which establishes the right of a colored citizen to employment, promotion and fair treatment on the job opens wider the doors of opportunity for the race. The branch has continuously urged colored representation on administrative and policy making bodies, local and national, and has given support to the work of labor unions and other organizations which have endeavored to raise the living standard of Negroes.

In his conclusion Dr. Lovell expressed the grief and loss of the organization and the community in the death of Dr. Charles Edward Russell, one of the founders of the NAACP, and member of the District branch.

On November 9 the District of Columbia branch initiated a series of four radio programs covering the contributions of Negroes to the arts of painting, sculpture and architecture. Prof. James V. Herring of Howard university spoke on November 9, and will speak again on December 14, on Negroes in the field of sculpture. In January and February, Hilyard Robinson will speak on architecture.

Illinois: Under the direction of Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, the annual membership drive of the Chicago branch, led by Attorney Oscar C. Brown, brought the unprecedented sum of $5,049.73 and memberships were still coming in at last report. Mrs. Lampkin and Mr. Brown divided the workers into groups according to vocational interests. The divisions and leaders were: Ethel Hilliard, women's auxiliary; James Knight and C. U. Turpin, business; Attorney U. S. Keys, civil service and professional; James Kemp and L. G. Alexander, trades and labor; A. B. Knight, insurance. Each division was asked to raise $1,000. At the end of the campaign more than 20 PANCAS were named (workers who brought in 20 or more memberships).

The Chicago branch under the leadership of its president, Ira W. Williams, is conducting a campaign to integrate Negroes in defense industries. A mass meeting was held October 19 in which training for jobs was stressed. Several firms which have never hired colored workers before are now employing a few. Plans are also under way to sponsor a series of institutes and lectures on the Negro and the defense program. The anticipated program will be conducted over a period of two months and it is hoped that the institutes will stimulate interest in the defense program with respect to Negro participation and that the lectures will point to definite techniques for the solutions of the problems.

The Springfield branch has elected George W. Wells as president.

At a recent meeting of the Lake County branch, at which Mrs. Lampkin was the speaker, every person attending the meeting who was not already a member joined the branch. This 100% mass meeting was held at the Shiloh Baptist church, of which Rev. J. G. Brannum, Jr., is pastor. Officers of the branch are: president, William J. Payne; vice-president, R. G. Brown; secretary, E. L. Payne; and Lucius Sanders, treasurer. On the executive committee are: J. W. Bates, Thomas Young, Gilbert Cooper, Carl Washington, Luther Lackey, Wm. S. Purcell, P. B. Moore, and H. C. Bussey.

Iowa: W. W. Gross has been re-elected president of the Keokuk branch. Other officers are Rev. A. O. Birchenough and C. H. Ashby, vice-presidents; Mrs. K. S. Myers, secretary; Mrs. R. B. Toomes, assistant secretary; and Thelma Seals, treasurer. Committee chairmen are B. H. Toomes, membership; A. W. Draine, publicity; W. W. Gross, legal redress; W. H. Smith, labor and industry; Rev. C. W. Carter, education; Mrs. E. Weldon, entertainment; Mrs. K. S. Myers, youth council. Mrs. Agnes Thiery has been named chairman of the Christmas seal committee.

Ike Smalls, of Des Moines, was guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Marshalltown branch. Mr. Smalls, who is chairman of the interracial committee of the Des Moines branch, and a member of the national nominating committee of the NAACP, said that racial problems can be solved by breaking down discriminations and keeping America safe for democracy by following the constitution. He added that this is the purpose and work of the NAACP. Other participants in the meeting were Rabbi B. A. Klein of the Sons of Israel congregation, Mrs. Sam Morrow, and president Eli Morrow.

The Des Moines branch held their 26th annual meeting dinner and election of officers at the Maple Street Baptist church on November 13. The following officers were elected: President, Ike Smalls; vice-presidents, Mrs. William Neal, and Adria Titterington; secretary, John Coleman; assistant secretary, Clara Webb; and treasurer, A. P. Potter. Members of the executive board are: Attorney S. Joe Brown, Mrs. H. Hollingsworth, Mrs. G. C. Morris, Freddie Hawkins, Mrs. Julia Proctor, Rev. J. C. Bain, Helen Be Shears, Mrs. S. E. Jett, and Mrs. J. W. Mitchell. At the meeting annual reports were given by the officers, and Mrs. Georgine C. Morris presided.

Maryland: The Cumberland branch executive board recently voted to purchase government defense bonds with the funds already raised for the erection of a community center for colored people.

Michigan: A study of the membership report of the Detroit branch from February to October 31, 1941, inclusive, reveals a total of 5,986 members. A break-down of this figure shows that there are: 412 youth members; 5,184, $1 members; 354, $2.50 members; 23, $5 members; and 15,

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations nominates the following persons for membership on the National Board of Directors of the N. A. A. C. P., for terms expiring December 31, 1944:

MRS. LILLIAN A. ALEXANDER
New York

LOUIS C. BLOUNT
Detroit, Mich.

HARRY E. DAVIS
Cleveland, Ohio

ROSCOE DUNJEE
Oklahoma City, Okla.

DR. JOHN B. HALL
Boston, Mass.

DR. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES
New York

HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN
New York

ALFRED BAKER LEWIS
Peekskill, New York

EUGENE M. MARTIN
Atlanta, Ga.

ISADORE MARTIN
Philadelphia, Pa.

MISS L. PEARL MITCHELL
Cleveland, Ohio

HON. CHARLES POLETTI
New York

T. G. NUTTER
Charleston, W. Va.

MRS. AMY E. SPINGARN
New York

DR. E. W. TAGGART
Birmingham, Ala.

DR. JOHN M. TINSLEY
Richmond, Va.

MAJOR ROBERT E. TREMAN
Ithaca, New York

BISHOP W. J. WALLS
Chicago, Ill.

These nominations will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association to be held on Monday, January 5, 1942.

Committee on Nominations:

Allan Knight Chalmers
Grace B. Fenderson
Eugene Hall
Lillie M. Jackson
Charles E. Toney
H. W. Williamston
Arthur B. Spingarn

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$10 and up members. Sections from which these 5,986 members come are: Dearborn, 1; Ecorse, 29; River Rouge, 23; Highland Park, 86; Westside, 1,439; Ferndale, 15; Northend, 814; Northwest Detroit, 188; Hamtramck, 38; Eastside, 2,838; Conant Garden, 60; North Detroit, 122; Grosse Point, 15; out of town, 131; and uncertain, 187.

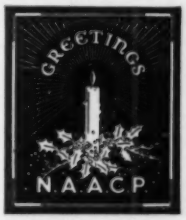
The branch office at 446 East Warren Street, where Gloster B. Current is executive secretary, has been the center of great activity. Activities have included investigation of the "scape-goat" trials involving the 94th Engineers at Camp Custer, following the unfortunate Arkansas incident. In answer to many complaints and protests, the War department has promised a fair trial. The branch has also had occasion to refer several cases of discrimination in civil service and defense industries to the Fair Employment Practices Committee, after investigation of the merits of the cases. In another case the dismissal of a bus operator followed the action of the branch in filing a complaint against the driver for insulting remarks made to three girls when they boarded the bus.

Another recent activity of the branch was the sponsoring of a meeting of the parents and students at Northwestern high school. It was felt that the ground work of better racial understanding was laid at the meeting. The branch office with the cooperation of the WPA Workers Service is now offering an informational service to those persons interested in the Negro. A Pamphlet library has been installed, and contributions of books will be appreciated.

Minnesota: In cooperation with the Duluth Defense Savings committee, the Duluth branch sponsored a rally at the Pla-Mor ballroom on November 6.

Dean William Pickens of the Treasury Department in Washington gave an address to a vast mixed audience on the benefits to be derived from the purchase of Defense Bonds and stamps. The speaker was introduced by Duluth's mayor, Edward H. Hatch. Other highlights of the meeting were a musical concert by the W.P.A. Band led by Homer Krause and Henry Williams, and the Duluth Male Chorus directed by Hilding Silverston. R. J. Simmons presided at this very interesting meeting.

New York: The Newburgh branch on November 13 sponsored a mass meeting at the A.M.E. Zion church, at which time Randall Tyus, assistant field secretary of the Association, was guest speaker. Included on the program were Rev. W. T. Young, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist church, Judge R. A. Egan, Rev. S. A. Hodge, and Mrs. M. B. Ward. Special music was rendered by Mrs. Harriett Freeman, Mildred Freeman, and the Melody Glee club. Benediction was given by Rev. E. O. Clarke, pastor of the A.M.E. Zion church. At the meeting 20 new members were welcomed to the branch. On November 7 the Newburgh branch recommended in a resolution that a police officer be suspended from duty following proof at the trial of Milton Black that the officer had brutally and maliciously attacked him with evident partiality and prejudice. Black and a friend were arrested, but subsequently dismissed, following a fight between them and a sailor in a restaurant when the Negroes objected to the sailor's references to them. Evidence showed that the sailor had been the instigator of the fight.



Buy NAACP Christmas Seals

New Mexico: At the November meeting of the Hobbs branch, of which J. W. Hudson is president, the group was presented with its charter.

Ohio: Rev. C. K. Stalnaker has been reelected president of the Toledo branch. Other officers are Mrs. A. Duffy, vice-president; Annabelle Jones, secretary; and Mrs. C. Heslip, treasurer.

E. Frederic Morrow, branch coordinator, was guest speaker for the Kent branch at its mass meeting in October.

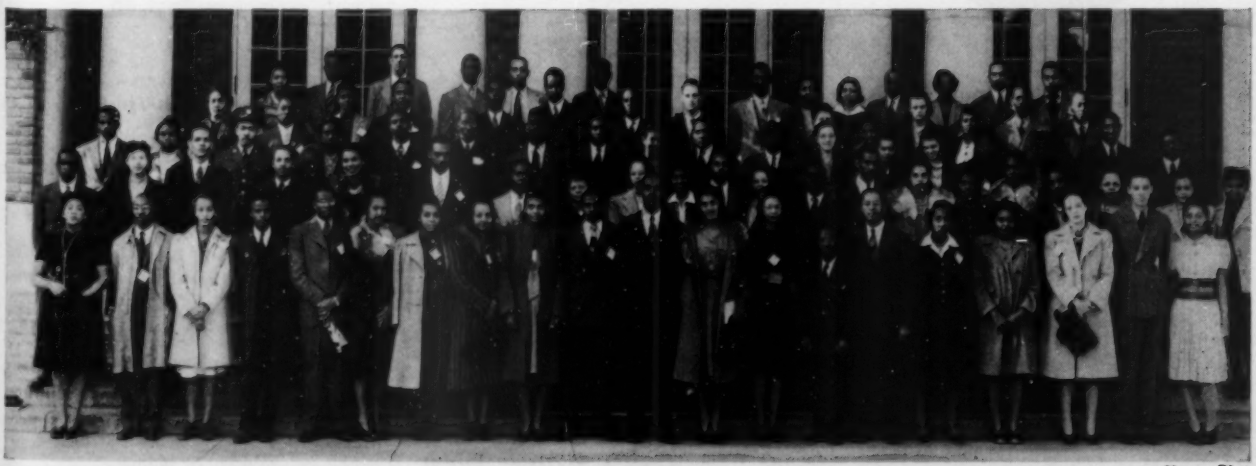
Youth Council News

Hampton, Virginia: The following officers were elected at the business session of the third annual student conference: Pauli Murray, of Howard University Law School, chairman; Otis Wells, of Virginia Union University, 1st vice-chairman; Howard Savage of Talladega College, 2nd vice-chairman; Etta Stanton, Talladega College, secretary. The regional representatives are Enid Jervis, New York City, North; J. Alexander Everett, Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., South; Johnson E. Lee, Langston College, Oklahoma, Mid-west. The representatives at large are Milton Kramer, New York City; Anderson Davis, Clark College, Atlanta, Ga.; DeWitt Proctor, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va. This meeting was undoubtedly the most successful held, with 118 registered delegates, representing 30 colleges, Negro and white. The next conference is scheduled to be held at Clark College, Atlanta, Ga., the last week in October, 1942.

Elizabeth, N. J.: The newly elected officers of the Elizabeth youth council are: president, Joseph Ramey; vice-president, Ishmond Jones, Jr.; recording secretary, Dorothy Foster; corresponding secretary, Charlotte Jones. Dr. William H. Brown is adviser to the group.

Talladega, Ala.: The Talladega college chapter has added 103 names to its roster at the end of their fall membership drive. The officers of this group include Howard Savage, president; Doyle Bell, vice president; Helen Collins, recording secretary; Helen Lowery, corresponding secretary; Frances Cason, membership chairman; Oscar Adams, treasurer; Margaret Smith, publicity chairman; T. S. Jackson, faculty adviser.

Montclair, N. J.: The following new officers were elected: Eva Lawrence, president; Julius Mills, vice president; Ann Johansen, recording secretary; Martha Belle, corresponding secretary; Nellie Brown, treasurer; Marjorie Robinson, assistant treasurer; J. B. Redmond, director. To date 8 members have been reported, and the membership drive is still in progress.



Cheyne Photo

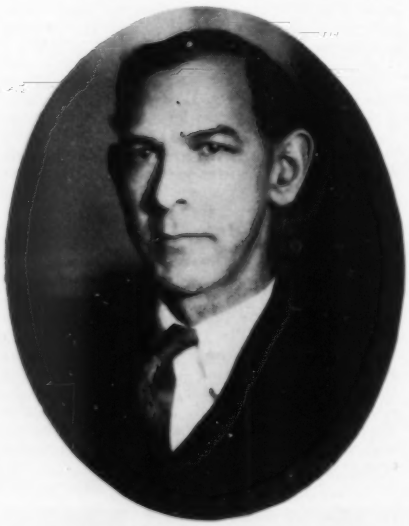
Delegates to the third annual NAACP student conference at Hampton Institute, October 31–November 1, 2

FRANK M. TURNER

An Appreciation by Richetta G. Randolph

WHEN a few months after its organization the Executive Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People voted "that there be appointed a bookkeeper", it was only natural that Dr. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois who had come to the Association as Director of Publicity and Research should recommend Frank M. Turner, a graduate of Wilberforce University (1909), who had served him so well as secretary at Atlanta University. And so, in 1910, Frank M. Turner joined the N.A.A.C.P. staff and from then until his death on October 14, 1941, served as the Association's Chief Accountant.

Frank Turner was one of the most amiable, easy-going, and at the same time one of the most efficient persons I have ever known. He knew his job and did it. He was a stenographer but had specialized in bookkeeping. In



The late Frank M. Turner

the very early days of the Association he helped out now and then as a stenographer but he insisted on its being clearly understood that his job was that of bookkeeping; and I doubt whether it was generally known in the office in these latter years that stenography was one of his accomplishments. I say he was easy-going because he never became upset and just wouldn't be "rushed". No matter what your hurry might be, he had to be sure the thing he was doing for you was done right.

It can well be said that Mr. Turner's entire career after graduation from college was spent with the N.A.A.C.P. It can also be said with equal truthfulness that all of the funds of the N.A.A.C.P. up to the time of his death (which occurred after a very brief illness) were handled by Frank M. Turner. Prior to his coming to the Association such bookkeeping as was needed was done by the Executive Secretary. Because he served the organization almost from its beginning, Mr. Turner's connection through the years meant a great deal more than keeping the Association's books. He helped to build the organization physically and spiritually. When I say "physically" I mean that he took it as part of his job to take charge of the matters of office equipment and supplies and in many instances to keep the equipment in repair by personally doing the repairs. With a brand new and growing organization this was a decided advantage. Who can tell better when an expenditure can be afforded than the man who knows to the penny what is in the treasury? The Association in all these years never had a "buyer" other than Frank Turner. Until 1918 the Association operated with only a skeleton staff and up to that time the matter of purchasing did not present a problem. But from then on the staffs, both executive and clerical, increased rapidly, and it was interesting to note that somehow or other Mr. Turner always "managed". And with the N.A.A.C.P. "managing" has always been an art. There has never been enough money even to do the very necessary things. But the staff, like the members of a large family, always waited for the things requested, feeling sure they would be forthcoming just as soon as possible. Having to supply the needs of a large family at home, the task of handling the wants of the office staff seemed never to disturb Mr. Turner at all.

And there can be no doubt that

(*Continued on page* 398)

LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries. THE CRISIS carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. THE CRISIS does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to THE CRISIS.

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Book Reviews

TROUBLE IN CANAAN

***BLOOD ON THE FORGE.* By William Attaway. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1941. 279 pp. $2.00.**

This second novel of William Attaway is certain to make more secure his position as one of the coming masters of American prose fiction. Evidently well equipped with the necessary knowledge of steel-making, our author presents a fascinating and often brutal picture of steel-making in a Pennsylvania town. This new novel is the story of the eternal problem of capital and labor and race as we find it everywhere in industrial America where these three elements meet. It is the story of three Negro brothers who escape from the plantation slavery of the South to the relative freedom of the, perhaps, harsher wage-slavery of the industrial North. Portrayal of the central character Mat Moss, the big, hulking, brooding giant, is excellent. His brothers, however, are not as well limned. There is Chinatown, the happy-go-lucky weakling who lives in a world of make-believe and play; then there is the guitar plucker Melody. Melody is the more thoughtful member of the trio, but he is for all that probably the least realized of the author's characters.

Big Mat flees his Kentucky hills after beating up a white riding boss in order to avoid being lynched. His wife Hattie he leaves behind. He does pretty well until he learns that Hattie is not going to have that long desired baby. Then he goes bad. He takes up with a lustful Mexican girl, Anna. He sets up housekeeping with her, but Anna really loves Melody, only Melody is not virile enough for her. Chinatown loses his eyes in a mill blast. And big Mat is finally persuaded to become a sheriff's deputy to help in the breaking of a steel strike. Mat goes against his comrades and fellow workers because for the first time in his life he can feel that he is somebody and can boss white people around. Mat is finally killed. Anna goes back to her life of Prostitution. Melody takes his blind brother to Pittsburgh. The story is brutal, tragic, and sordid. Its pages swarm with working-men, crooks, thieves, prostitutes, policemen, and pimps, and all the starveling and downtrodden ones ground under the heel of pluto-democratic America.

The dialogue is simple, life-like, straightforward, and cuts to the bare essentials. The plot is plausible and unobstructive. In a word, Mr. Attaway can not only write, but he can also tell a story. He inevitably reminds us of Richard Wright. Both authors write of the anonymous masses of their people, of their joys, their troubles, their trials, and the often sadistic cruelty which so frequently attends their lives. Both Big Mat and Bigger Thomas bruise and kill out of the same motive, fear and frustration.

JAMES W. IVY

***THE WHEEL THAT MADE WISHES COME TRUE* by Octavia B. Wynbush. Illustrations by George Greene. Dorrance and Company. Philadelphia. $1.00**

This charming fairy tale by Miss Wynbush (whose short stories are familiar to CRISIS readers) is about a little boy whose many questions are unanswered until The Wishing Fairy comes and takes him in tow and shows him the lands where the lost leaves go, where the snow flakes live and how the wind gets its whistle and similar phenomena.

The tale is well and simply told and should be warmly welcomed by all children between five and ten years old who are fortunate enough to receive it for Christmas. A.B.S.

ANTHOLOGY OF NEGRO POETRY

***GOLDEN SLIPPERS:* An Anthology of Negro Poetry for Young Readers. Compiled by Arna Bontemps. With Drawings by Henrietta Bruce Sharon. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1941. XII+220 pp. $2.50.**

Mr. Bontemps has done a good job in this collection of Negro poems. Though designed primarily for children, these poems will, nevertheless, bring delight to the hearts of many adults. Mr. Bontemps divides his book into fourteen sections with poems appropriate for the chapter headings selected: "Waking Up," "Playtime," "Clothes Lines and Water Pails," "Hard Work," "Chariot Wheels," "For My Grandmother," and so on. The authors represented range all the way from Paul Laurence Dunbar down to such contemporary, and perhaps little known poets, as Beatrice M. Murphy and Wesley Curtright. Many of the standard Negro poets are represented—Hughes, Newsome, Cuney, Fenton Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Cullen, McKay, Horne, Fauset, Braithwaite, Sterling Brown, *et al.*—as well as many of the traditional Negro folk rhymes.

The subjects of these poems likewise cover a considerable variety of activities: love, blues, work, rainy days, washing dishes, stealing kisses, etc. Selected primarily for their entertainment value, these poems catch the indefectible humor and the charming insouciance of Negro life.

JAMES W. IVY

ALMA PARENS

***AMERICA.* By David Cushman Coyle. Washington: National Home Library Foundation, 1941. 91 pp. $0.25.**

STORIES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. By Anna L. Curtis. Foreword by Rufus M. Jones. Illustrated by William Brooks. New York: The Island Workshop Press Co-Op, Inc., 1941. XII+115 pp. $1.75.

Both these little books throw a searching light on the preachments of American "democrats." Mr. Coyle writes like a *palaciego*—"palace favorite"—of the New Deal and his book in consequence is a sort of patriotic "ad" aimed at the not too bright 100% Nordic American. You know the sort of American who thinks in superlatives about everything American—we have the greatest this, and the greatest that, and so on *ad nauseam*. Miss Curtis, on the other hand, is a Quaker who digs up thrilling stories out of the freedom-loving past of her coreligionists, the stories of people who really believed in democratic equality for all people—even for Negroes. At bottom Mr. Coyle seems to be tub-thump-

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The distinguished author of *Native Son*, writing passionately of the American Negro, sets forth the problems of a nation that is still living "half-slave and half-free." He sums up the tragic consequences of the Negro's unwilling isolation and eloquently reveals the Negro's education through toil, despair and hope. Here is a people living on farms and in great cities, strangely apart from their fellow-Americans—a people who have earned, and are demanding, a share in the growth of the new country they have helped to build with their own hands.

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ing for the present foreign policy of the New Deal and Dr. Roosevelt on the rather shaky assumption that World War II is actually a crusade for human rights instead of the memorial quarrel over pelf and plunder. Perhaps, if I were free, white, and twenty-one, I might fall for Mr. Coyle's somewhat rhetorical screed; but since I am neither free, nor white, and long past the age of twenty-one, our author's hortatory admonition leaves me completely cold. And for the reason that the basic assumption of both Herr Hitler and Dr. Roosevelt is based upon the belief that there is a divinely appointed, enlightened caste of whites, dubbed "Aryans" in the *Deutsches Reich* and Nordics in the Land of the Free, who alone have the wisdom to rule the rest of the world, and especially us darker folk. Not a single leader in any of the warring countries has come forward with a vision of a higher destiny for the dispossessed black, brown, and even white masses of the world now writhing under the heels of their plutocratic exploiters.

Miss Curtis tells us stories of derring-do for basic human rights, stories out of the past of a minority which has tried at all times to accept and treat all men as brothers. This ideal of equality and help across the color line, has, alas, just about withered and dried up in progressive, plutocratic America. Her book relates the stories of escape of Negro slaves via the Underground Railroad and the liberal assistance which Quakers lent in the freeing of thousands of Negroes prior to the Civil War. These stories are from the files of *Scattered Seeds*, a Quaker children's paper of Philadelphia. They are intended for juvenile reading and will interest all children interested in human rights and human uplift.

JAMES W. IVY

DRAMATIC VERSION OF NATIVE SON

***NATIVE SON* (The Biography of a Young American). A play in ten scenes by Paul Green and Richard Wright, from the novel by Richard Wright. New York & London: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1941. IX+148 pp. $2.00.**

This is the dramatic version of the novel *Native Son* as prepared for the boards by its author, Mr. Wright, and his distinguished collaborator, the well-known playwright, Mr. Paul Green. These collaborators have done a very effective job in their turning of an oft melodramatic novel into a compelling play. The more brutal and realistic episodes of the novel have, of course, been omitted; for instance, in the play Clara is killed by the cops while Bigger is using her as a shield instead of having her brains beat out by Bigger with a brick, as it was in the novel. Most of the significant episodes of the novel have been retained but they have been stripped of those myriad details which gave them so much meaning in the novel. For this reason the play often reads like straight melodrama or badly disguised pro-Negro propaganda with a leftist twist. The authors use their ten scenes to work up a crescendo of emotion and tension, and they do not let the reader rest until they close with Bigger's "Death Lament" just before the curtain. It seems to me that the Bigger of the play is a much more human and a much more plausible Bigger than the Bigger of the novel. Defense attorney Max's appeal for and explanation of Bigger is just as effective in the play as it was in the novel. A play to make your pulses beat and your brain cells throb.

JAMES W. IVY

New Defense Pamphlet

How President Roosevelt and the Office of Production Management are seeking to secure full participation of all minority groups in the national defense program is explained in a 19-page pamphlet, MINORITIES IN DEFENSE, released October 29 by the Labor Division of OPM, Washington, D. C.

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Frank M. Turner

(*Continued from page* 394)

through the years—thirty-one of them—Mr. Turner's intimate knowledge of the Association's accounts, and especially of its "ups and downs" as far as income was concerned, prevented difficulties which would have been bound to come because of changes in executive secretaryships. While he was accountant the Association had six executive secretaries and not one of them experienced any difficulty in taking up, with regard to the Association's finances, where the other left off. And, too, there were times—though of brief duration—when there was no executive secretary and when Mr. Turner had to report directly to other Association officials as to its accounts. No greater tribute can be paid Frank Turner than that there was never a time when these reports were questioned.

Naturally, as the Association's work grew, as the number of branches increased, Mr. Turner's desk work increased and frequently required his working long hours overtime. But with all of this, his interest in the Association was so great that he helped to organize (in 1927) the Jamaica, New York, Branch and served as its secretary until the time of his death. And he was not secretary in name only; nor did he carry out just the perfunctory duties of that office. He worked hard to keep the Branch alive and left it one of the most active in the organization. He kept in constant touch with the membership through correspondence and through almost daily personal contact with Branch officers. Notices of meetings were sent out regularly and Branch records were carefully and faithfully kept.

In the same Wilberforce graduation class with Frank Turner was Miss Frosty Duncan of his home town, Richmond, Kentucky; and immediately upon graduation they were married. So when Mr. Turner came to work for the N.A.A.C.P. he brought his young bride. Mrs. Turner returned to Richmond and remained there for a few months. Upon her return to New York the Turners began their home-making in Manhattan but soon moved to Jamaica and settled in Merrick Park where the family still lives. Mr. Turner's loyalty to the N.A.A.C.P. and to his Alma Mater is demonstrated in the naming of three of his eight sons: Burghardt, George Weldon and Wilberforce.

Frank M. Turner, son of the late Wyatt and Emma Mitchell Turner, was born in Richmond, Kentucky, November 29, 1887. After graduating from Richmond high school in May, 1905, he attended Urbana Normal and Industrial Institute, Urbana, Ohio. From 1907 he pursued the commercial course at Wilberforce university and was graduated in June, 1909. The same summer he married Frosty Ann Duncan and went immediately to fill his first position as secretary to Dr. W. E. B. DuBois at Atlanta university.

In 1910 he came with Dr. Du Bois to New York to establish THE CRISIS Magazine which has remained to this day the chief organ in the fight for equal opportunity for the Negro. When the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was opened Mr. Turner was there to serve as bookkeeper and accountant. This position he retained until his death.

The year 1914 saw the removal of the then small Turner family to Jamaica, a struggling suburban community, where Mr. Turner could be close to the soil he so loved. He became immediately interested in the community life and is recognized as the father of tennis in Jamaica. He was active in organizing various civic organizations and in 1927 he was the backbone of the group that brought into being the Jamaica Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. He served as it's secretary from its inception. Through this medium he helped lead the struggle for good government, low-rent housing, play lots for children, additional police protection and justice for Negroes in employment and in the courts.

Nor was his spiritual life impaired by civic activity. At the time of his death he was the treasurer of St. Stephens Episcopal church and a member of its executive committee. He was also a member of Selective Service Advisory Board 263, secretary of the Invincible Whist Club and a member of various other community groups.

He is survived by his widow Mrs. Frosty Turner; six sons: Duncan, Frank Jr., Burghardt, Wilber, Douglass, and Robert; a daughter-in-law Mrs. Shirley Turner; two grand children: Shirley Juanita and Frank III; three sisters: Anne and Hattie Turner and Mrs. Mary Walker; of Richmond, Ky., and three aunts: Mesdames Amanda Yates, America Covington, and Eva Marshall. Also Mrs. Addie Hawkins Burnett, an adopted daughter.

Branch News

Pennsylvania: The November meeting of the Media branch was held at the Campbell A.M.E. church, of which Rev. Stanford is pastor. Frank D. Reeves, legal research assistant of the national office, was guest speaker. Mrs. Mary Glenn, rendered a solo, and Mrs. Celia Johnson gave a reading. The election of officers resulted in the following: C. I. Moat, president; Wm. Jacobs, vice-president; F. S. Randolph, secretary; B. E. Mayo, assistant secretary; and Mrs. E. Boyer, treasurer. On the executive committee are Rev. S. A. Smith, Ethel S. Wynn, Ophelia McCall, Josephine Smith, S. H. Hunter, C. E. Moat, Marie Goodwin, Dr. L. McKnight, Martha Bradford, Grace L. Murray, Mary Garnett, Sara Woodland, Ethel Jackson, B. E. Garnett, Rev. J. L. Lewis.

Texas: The Dallas branch, with Dr. B. E. Howell as president and G. F. Porter, secretary and W. L. Robinson, chairman executive committee, has been very busy in behalf of the rights of its neighbors, during 1941. On January 11 suit was filed against the city of Dallas on account of bombings of Negro property and the attempt to declare by resolution on the part of the city council, certain districts white, in violation of the anti-segregation decision won for Louisville by the Association in 1915. The city of Dallas was forced to remove the resolution from the minutes and make other concessions. The branch has interested itself and helped in other cases of Negroes indicted for rape, killing in self-defense, and peonage. The branch is now putting forth its efforts in the case of L. C. Aikens who killed an off-duty policeman in self defense. A good deal of time has been taken up with the showing of evidence that Negroes have been systematically excluded from the grand jury of Dallas County since 1905, and it is predicted that the case will be sent back if Aikens is convicted. One of the jurors announced that he was prejudiced and would give the Negro the electric chair even if a thousand witnesses testified in his favor. The legal redress committee includes G. F. Porter, Mrs. M. A. Flanagan, C. R. Graggs, C. T. Brackins, F. D. Jones, L. I. Brockenbury, Rev. B. R. Riley and Rev. T. M. Chambers.

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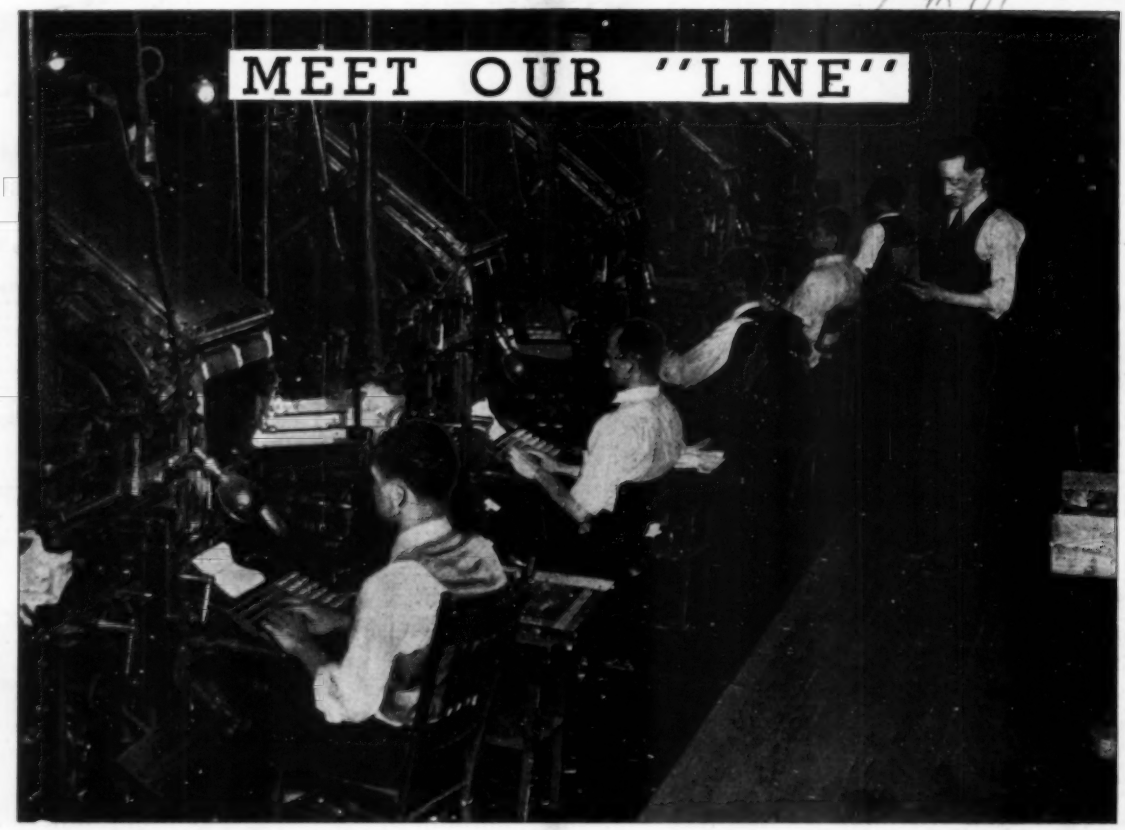

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